

THE TIMES

Strikers aim at Ulster shutdown as troops go in

The Army's takeover of 21 petrol stations and two large oil storage depots in Northern Ireland early yesterday brought swift retaliation from the Ulster workers' Council, organizers of the general strike in the province. The council's "coordinating committee" said that all gas, power station and oil supply workers would cease work by

midnight and that milk and bread supplies would be "the responsibility of the Army". Farmers would receive their final delivery of animal feed today, after which civilians would refuse to do the job. After today, the council said, undertakers would be asked not to bury the dead. Last night, with gas supplies cut off in Belfast and surrounding towns and many homes blacked out, ministers

of the Northern Ireland Executive asked loyalist politicians in the Assembly to negotiate with them. The Prime Minister is cutting short his holiday in the Isles of Scilly, returning to London today. The Army, which has sent 200 more technicians to the province, may be unable to run power stations there if skilled men in the Ulster plants refuse to work with them.

Executive ministers ask loyalist Assemblymen for talks

By Robert Fisk and Art Tandler

The Government's decision to take the Army into 21 petrol stations and two oil storage depots in Northern Ireland, in an attempt to show the failing authority of the Executive, backfired yesterday when the strikers' refusal to bring Ulster to a standstill. The strike leaders, Mr William Craig, the Vanguard party chairman, and Mr Peter Gibson, of the Ulster Defence Force, called a press conference at which they announced restrictions on services which could, in Belfast, reduce the standard of living to something comparable to the best as used



An ironic comment on the situation in Ulster yesterday after the Army had taken over the running of 21 filling stations.

at their headquarters in Belfast, six strike centres, decided to take over petrol pumps, it could take over any other essential service in the province as well. With Mr Craig's approval, Mr William Craig, of the Ulster workers' Council, "coordinating committee", the group that has the cooperation of the vast Protestant private sector, read out the following actions:

"Milk and bread supplies would be the responsibility of the Army from midnight last night. The Belfast power stations, the largest and most in Ulster, would be closed from the same time and workers would have to man the lines.

Drivers would receive their delivery of animal feed today, which civilians would not do any longer.

Gas workers were to withdraw their labour.

Workers at oil supply depots were to stop work immediately.

Yesterday evening gas had been cut off in Belfast and most of the surrounding towns and villages, and the electricity services were holding urgent talks with senior technicians at the stations.

The letter refuse to work the military authorities, they may not be able to run the stations in spite of the technical expertise at their command.

Executive ministers last night held a meeting to discuss before issuing a statement. I asked the "loyalist" politicians to negotiate with them. "Despite any impression to the contrary," the statement said, "the strike and the parties represented by it in the coalition have always been prepared to discuss any political matter in its competence with other representatives."

The loyalists now came to their primary aim of a direct vote, there is no doubt that Mr Craig or any Assembly colleagues will

be prepared to deal with the Executive. Indeed, there was a further sign yesterday that its authority was being undermined. Mr Nelson Elder, secretary of the pro-Assembly Ulsterist backbench committee, who has been a faithful supporter of Mr Faulkner's Executive for nearly a year, resigned from the party, saying that the coalition should not have allowed the Army to try to break the strike.

Mr Ivan Cooper and Mr Paddy Devlin, the two SDLP ministers who said privately on Sunday that they were going to resign, were still in office last night. They had given Mr Rees, the Secretary of State, an ultimatum to put troops into petrol stations, and, it is understood, said they would leave the Executive if army operations were not undertaken by 5 am yesterday.

In fact, at 5 am hundreds of soldiers took over the oil storage depots on the Belfast docks and manned 21 filling stations in Northern Ireland, surrounding them with machine guns and coils of barbed wire.

At 5 am Mr Rees made a long statement, saying that troops would be withdrawn immediately if normal services were resumed, but that no parliamentary democracy could accept that "a group of men self-appointed and answerable to no one should decide when and where and to whom the essentials of life shall be distributed within a part of that democracy".

Mr Rees said the most important word was "consent". "Pull back from the brink now. Let us all work together for the good of Northern Ireland and break away from the theme of Irish history of violence."

Later, when it became evident that the Army's action, far from breaking the strike, had reinforced the will of the loyalists behind it, Mr Rees made a further statement referring to the massive challenge to the people in this community who wish to preserve the very life of Northern Ireland.

"He said the strike organizers had plunged hundreds of thousands of people into a state of fear, deprivation and real danger to life."

"They should search their consciences to find what could possibly justify the creation of such a situation," he said; "but there was little sign of such mental activity at Ulster Workers' Council headquarters last night."

Mr Craig said little at the press conference except to announce the start: "The Government has decided to take on responsibility for essential services and we will now withdraw from the scene." Mr Glen Barr, one of the most powerful men in the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association, repeated Mr Craig's words and said that while there would be no violence, no intimidation and only passive resistance, they would do nothing to help the Army.

Mr Barr appealed to those he called his "fellow trade unionists" in Britain to realize that a Labour Government had set a precedent in using British troops against strikers. He said some soldiers in the Belfast suburb of Donnadilly had spat at and used foul language to a picket of strikers near a factory.

At several of the 21 filling stations occupied by the Army yesterday, there were scarcely any queues for petrol. The pumps were worked by civilian employees of the Ministry of Commerce and people in essential services were issued with petrol coupons if they produced their vehicle registration books.

The ministry said it was not introducing a general scheme of petrol rationing, although authorized stations would be available only to motorists with coupons. It became inevitable yesterday morning, however, even as troops of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment moved into the storage depot at Sydenham, that by the end of the day the crucial question would be the Army's capacity to run the power stations.

According to some sources, they must have the cooperation of senior technicians to produce any electricity at all.

Many shops, offices and hotels told their employees to turn off all water, as supplies in the tanks will have to be conserved for drinking. Today the strikers will decide whether the sewage disposal system should be left unattended; but if the electricity goes, their sewage could flow in the streets of Belfast.

As a final macabre touch, the workers' council announced that undertakers would be asked not to bury the dead after today.

Privately the strike leaders explain shrewdly that their plan is to involve the Army in so many essential activities in the province that the Government can no longer sustain a policy under which so many troop reinforcements have to be sent to Northern Ireland.

If the soldiers have to drive buses, trains and petrol

supply workers would cease work by midnight and that milk and bread supplies would be "the responsibility of the Army". Farmers would receive their final delivery of animal feed today, after which civilians would refuse to do the job. After today, the council said, undertakers would be asked not to bury the dead. Last night, with gas supplies cut off in Belfast and surrounding towns and many homes blacked out, ministers of the Northern Ireland Executive asked loyalist politicians in the Assembly to negotiate with them. The Prime Minister is cutting short his holiday in the Isles of Scilly, returning to London today. The Army, which has sent 200 more technicians to the province, may be unable to run power stations there if skilled men in the Ulster plants refuse to work with them.

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M Chirac is chosen as new French Premier

By Our Foreign Staff

M Jacques Chirac, aged 41, was yesterday appointed Prime Minister by M Giscard d'Estaing who earlier in the day had formally taken over as the new French President.

The outgoing Premier, M Pierre Messmer, handed in his resignation in formal style as the result of his month's presidential election.

M Chirac, an intimate of the late President Pompidou who once called him "the bulldozer" because of his robust ability to get things done, was the Gaullist Minister of the Interior in the Messmer government. Early in the election campaign, however, he declared against M Chaban-Delmas, the Gaullist contender, and for M Giscard d'Estaing. He is one of the youngest Prime Ministers in French history.

His height, over six feet, his clean-cut features and sober dress-style combine to reinforce the reputation for strength and efficiency which he earned in various ministerial posts. As Agriculture Minister, the post he held and appointed Interior Minister three months ago, just before Mr Pompidou's death, M Chirac caught the public's imagination with his effective, occasionally vehement, defence of farmers' interests.

At the age of 34 he was elected deputy for the department of Corrèze, a traditionally left-wing stronghold—defeating the brother of M François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, in doing so—and since 1970 has been chairman of the general council.

The general view in France last night was that by appointing M Chirac, the new President intends to govern the country directly from the executive, headed by himself. The Cabinet, to be announced today, is expected to be relatively young and to include three women.

M Messmer, a stalwart Gaullist installed by President Pompidou, was last appointed Prime Minister at the end of February. He first became Premier in July, 1972, and led three governments.

M Giscard plans to be "modern President", page 4; Portrait of M Chirac, page 14; Leading article, page 15.

Victory in Cabinet over opponents of link with EEC

By David Spanier

After lengthy debate by senior ministers, the Government has now settled its terms for renegotiation, which Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, will present to the European Community in Luxembourg a week today (June 4).

It might be an exaggeration to suggest that Mr Wilson, Mr Callaghan and a majority of the Cabinet have swung back to a pro-European course; but there is no doubt that Mr Callaghan's statement, which will be finalized this week, represents a signal victory over those who urged a break with the EEC.

In explaining his requirements in the coming negotiations, it is hoped that the Foreign Secretary's statement will demonstrate the Government's strong desire that Britain should find a way of remaining inside the Community.

To this end, it is understood that Mr Callaghan will present quite a long list of specific requests for changes. While it is clear that the Government does not intend to call in question any of the principles of the Community's industrial, agricultural or financial policies, the Community's own systems will be accepted.

This important decision means that no changes will be sought which would require renegotiation of the accession treaty itself.

The Government will only seek those kinds of adjustment to the terms of the treaty which can be made by the Community in the normal course of its business, and there will be no need for ratification of the new terms through the parliaments of the Nine, which might risk a breakdown.

On New Zealand, for instance, which Mr Wilson himself made such a sticking point during the great debate, the Government will seek to bring forward the negotiations which the Community undertook to hold in 1975, so as to pursue the question now. This is not to say there will not be much argument over that all the changes to Community practices and programmes which the party wanted can be accommodated within the existing system. Those ministers who disagree have been in a minority.

imports, or the distribution of development aid, which Labour ministers feel is too one-sided in favour of the present African associates.

The single exception to this approach of tackling renegotiation in the normal framework of Community meetings, and timetable, concerns Britain's budget contribution. As there is no readily available means to head of reopening the question of the budgetary scale, as worked out in the entry negotiations, some new approach will have to be devised.

Here again, having accepted the vital principle of the "own resources" system, ministers will be less concerned with the means—which will be for the Community as a whole to work out—than with the net result of achieving a reduction in Britain's share of the payments.

On the common agricultural policy, always regarded by the Labour Party as its *hôte noir*, the British demands, which are expected to range over the growth and breadth of prices and marketing policies, may well alarm some members of the Community; but the fact that the Community's own system is accepted should make the task feasible, and enable the renegotiation to fit into the review of European agriculture which is already under way in the Community.

Whether the other members of the Community will regard Mr Callaghan's new approach as a sincere attempt to keep Britain in, is an open question. They were so taken aback by his opening speech on April 1 that they are expecting the worst. Moreover, the need to carry his own rank and file in the Labour Party means that the Foreign Secretary must talk tough much of the time.

However, the root and branch examination of Community policies which the Government set in motion on taking office appears to have had a profound effect.

On the one hand, it has shown that many of Labour's earlier fears about the Community were unfounded; and on the other hand, it has become clear that all the changes to Community practices and programmes which the party wanted can be accommodated within the existing system. Those ministers who disagree have been in a minority.

Mr Wilson cuts short his holiday as crisis continues

By Political Staff

Prime Minister decided today to cut short his holiday in the Isles of Scilly and to return to London today in the face of the grave situation in Northern Ireland. Earlier in the afternoon he had a telephone conversation with senior colleagues, who urged him to return to London as soon as possible. He had been expected to do so on Thursday, but ministers expressed relief last night that Ulster plans drawn up for Friday's Cabinet meeting

could be put into operation. Cabinet ministers were yesterday being briefed regularly, and some of the Northern Ireland Secretary of State, and Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Defence, almost immediately by minute.

In the absence of Mr Heath, in Mr Alec Douglas-Home, was prepared yesterday to call a meeting of the Shadow Cabinet at a moment's notice.

There are, I am told, no immediate plans for the recall

of Parliament. A suggestion by Mr John Biggs-Davison, Conservative MP for Epping Forest, that Parliament should be recalled to discuss the Ulster emergency was discounted by both ministers and Conservative leaders as "scaremongering". The crisis, it was pointed out, has been fully discussed in Parliament.

Mr Biggs-Davison sent a telegram to the Prime Minister yesterday saying: "Parliament should not be on holiday at a time when the economy and

whole life of a province of the United Kingdom is on the verge of collapse."

Concern in Dublin: Mr Cosgrave, Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland, and members of his Government, were kept informed of developments in Ulster when they met in Dublin yesterday (the Press Association reports).

Their Cabinet meeting, called to discuss the situation, ended after two and a half hours. There was no formal statement afterwards.

Since the middle of last week the 15-man coalition Government has been calling for possible moves to be made by British troops to break the stranglehold of hunger strikes in Northern Ireland's economy, but yesterday they were concerned about the province being on the verge of total shutdown.

Miss Bory stop babies' milk: Determination in Belfast streets; Army specialists' role, page 2

Leading article, page 15

JC to seek half share control of companies

By Staff

The boards of nationalized industries would be made up equally of union representatives and Government nominees representing the public interest. The TUC hopes that workers' representation might be extended later to lower management levels, public services, like health care, education, and local government.

The proposed Companies Act is the third piece of industrial legislation which the TUC wants from the Labour Government. It would follow the Trade Union and Labour Relations Bill, which would give the Industrial Relations Act and is now before Parliament, and the Employment Protection Bill.

Among the provisions the TUC wants from the Bill are better protection for workers against unfair dismissal, advance notice of redundancy, new protection when companies go bankrupt and workers' representation on the management bodies of occupational pension schemes.

Employers would be limited in the disciplining of their employees, and required to make a guaranteed-week arrangement and give information about the activities of their enterprises to unions.

Minister expects 'election situation' soon

By Staff

Mr Mulley was bound to be "in an election situation" soon, Mr Mulley, Minister for Transport, said yesterday. He was speaking at the opening of the Co-operative Congress at Llandudno.

The Government was doing its utmost to deal with rising prices, he said. "I give you a commitment from the Labour movement, backed by the trade unions and by yourselves, of this priority: to attempt to restrain the inflationary consequences of the last year."

"But whatever happens we are bound to be in an election situation pretty soon. This will demand united efforts of the whole of the Labour movement in order to get a government with a full majority dedicated to the principles of social justice and all the things that the three wings of the movement stand for."

It was not enough to get a government to succeed, he needed to retain throughout its life the support of the people of the three wings. "If we can remain united, I am sure we will get a Labour government of which we will all be immensely proud," Mr Mulley said.

Co-operative report, page 17

Clash over claim that Price sisters received last rites

By Christopher Sweeney

A Roman Catholic priest formally administered the last rites to the Price sisters in Brixton prison, London, on Sunday morning, the girls' mother, Mrs Kathleen Price, said yesterday. She said her daughters, Dolours and Marie, who have been on hunger strike for 154 days, had requested a visit from the priest.

But the Home Office last night denied that the last rites had been administered. The sisters, jailed for their part in the London car bombings, began the hunger strike to compel their move to prison in Northern Ireland.

Miss Claire Price, aged 26, their sister, who was allowed to make a 30-minute compassionate visit yesterday, said that emergency medical equipment, including cardiac machines, had recently been set up in the hospital wing. "Both are very weak and tired now. They were told by the doctors that from Tuesday they would not be able to leave their beds, nor would they be allowed to wash themselves."

Mrs Price said the girls asked for the last rites last week: "They wanted a priest close to them; it was logical to ask, as

They feel they are close to death"

By Staff

The sisters have not been forced since May 18 and are taking only water. They have told prison medical officers that they will not sign the authorization to permit artificial feeding legally if they become unconscious.

Miss Price said none of the family had tried to dissuade them. "We fully support them, as do the families of Hugh Feeney and Gerard Kelly, who are also on strike," she said.

According to members of the joint action committee, supporting the hunger strikes, Mr Feeney and Mr Kelly are staunchly clad and in solitary confinement in Wormwood Scrubs prison, London, and Gartree prison, Leicestershire. Mr Feeney, who according to his mother does not have a blanket, was last force-fed on May 22.

Mr Liam Kelly, father of Mr Gerard Kelly, said yesterday that he was refused permission to see his son. He did not know whether he was still being forcibly fed.

Dr Beraznice Beaumont, who is in general practice in north London, said she doubted whether the girls could survive another two months.

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NORTHERN IRELAND

Army specialists can do just enough to keep Ulster going

By Henry Stanhope Defence Correspondent About 200 more technicians, including a field squadron of the Royal Engineers, were on their way to Northern Ireland last night...

Several times officers have communicated to the Government their doubts about the wisdom of taking on the Ulster Workers' Council. The decision to send the troops into the oil depots and filling stations yesterday was taken only after a very careful assessment of the Army's ability to carry on services in the event of a total walk-out by the workers.

No details of the range of skills deployed by the Services in Ulster have been made known. The range is thought, however, to cover most of the functions that are essential to the maintenance of civilized life in any community.

The priority will be as stated: to keep essential services going at a minimal level in order to save life. But the Army cannot hope to do much about the commercial and industrial life of the province.

There is also, however, the problem of security—the reason, after all, for the troops being in Ulster in the first place.

In this respect things have been quiet since the strike began, with the militant Protestants avoiding any violent clashes with the Army and militant Catholics, in the shape of the IRA, content to see their job of bringing Ulster to its knees being done for them.

While the troops concentrate on running essential services security duties can take second place. But if the Army has to cope with a fresh wave of attacks or sabotage by either side, its resources would be stretched dangerously.

The Army could, for instance, if pressed, run a small railway system or operate a port on a limited footing, and the skills that it cannot provide are usually covered by the other two services.

Ironically, talk of using such skills to break or even to alleviate the strike in some of the towns would in normal circumstances cause a political storm to break above the heads of any government. But traditional loyalties

have been curiously complicated by the events of the past week.

The Army's main worry is not so much the duration of the strike as the depth of service that it feels able to provide. One officer put it like this: "Once we have started, we can keep on nibbling at it; but it is not a problem which we can hope to swallow."

The loyalty of the Ulster Defence Regiment to the Army must also be under unprecedented strain now. And there is the question of keeping technicians in reserve. While 500 may be enough to keep things ticking over for a week or two, there must come a time when new troops have to be sent in and the Army will be really struggling to make ends meet.

Leading article, page 15



Housewives in a Protestant area of Belfast using a makeshift range for cooking after gas and electricity supplies were cut off yesterday.

Boys aged eight stop babies' milk

From a Staff Reporter Belfast In Shaftesbury Square, Belfast, yesterday four small boys with dirty faces ordered a diet of baby food and powdered milk for babies but the boy said he had had no milk that morning. He looked insultingly at her jewelry, then waved her away, and she reversed down the street.

With varying degrees of success everyone was trying to wield power in Belfast yesterday, but of all the parties involved in the struggle those four children got the most immediate result. The Army, of course, was occupying the petrol stations. Coils of barbed wire in front of the pumps showed who controlled the fuel, but by afternoon it seemed as though the "loyalists" had closed nearly every garage in town that did not have an army garrison in the front court.

The most obvious exercise of power was in the Belfast suburb of Knock, where leaders of the Ulster Workers' Council were making sure that the military operations were rewarded with a suitably passive backlash. Mr Harry Patterson, one of the organization's spokesmen, a supporter with black, greased hair, told businessmen who wanted special passes that they could not have them. "No passes for essential services," he said. "The Army is stopping our men from working so we have got to reassess the situation."

Troops stay until 'normal services' are resumed

Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said the Army issued statements yesterday that the troops would stay until normal services are resumed. He said: "I have this morning authorized British troops to take control of the distribution of petroleum products to essential users in the province. This action, which has now taken place in fulfillment of the Prime Minister's undertaking on behalf of the Government to maintain essential services..."

At 03.00 hours today the Army moved into oil storage depots, near the Belfast harbour area and another at Oododerry, and a number of filling stations around the province. They have requisitioned these premises. The Army has also taken over a number of fuel transport vehicles and all will be put in the hands of Ministry of Commerce representatives as soon as this can be arranged.

Determined people in Belfast streets muster resources to 'stick it out'

From Stewart Tendler Belfast "Our ancestors stuck it out in the siege of Derry, and they ate rats and dogs. We haven't got that far yet, but we will stick it out too." Thus, with no noticeable weakening of their determination, a Protestant housewife and her neighbours yesterday faced the prospect of no gas for cooking, and a total electricity blackout.

Self-sufficiency has been developed over the 13 days of the strike and six telephones have been made available in houses to cope with requests for help and information from the community. Between fifty and a hundred men have operated a rubbish-clearance service, going round in the back of lorries to help others sweep the streets. At the weekend brown paper rubbish bags arrived, and 22,000 have been given to families in the past three days.

Yesterday afternoon one of the center's organizers went off to buy £40 of wholesale food. In the attic of a terrace house large tins of cocoa, soup, baby food, and other supplies were piled on the floor. Two church halls near by were being prepared as field kitchens, using porridge gas supplies. Three lorries of timber was on its way from the community's rural support to provide cooking fuel in homes.

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Fears that IRA may return to offensive

Continued from page 1 tankers, and man petrol stations, power stations, and sewage disposal works, as well as distributing food, the theory goes, Mr Rees will be forced to negotiate with the workers' council. What makes this plan so attractive to the loyalists is that they can claim never to have fired one shot at the Army during the strike, and therefore not in any way disgraced their British heritage.

have been saying over the past two years that soldiers are there to act in support of the civil power. In an incident at Dromore, Co Down, yesterday morning the official car carrying Mr Devlin and Mr Cooper was stopped at a barricade by a mob. The two ministers were returning from Dublin accompanied by Miss Eileen Fitz, daughter of Mr Gerard Fitz, the deputy Chief Executive.

HOME NEWS

Heads want leaving age reconsidered

From Tim Devlin Education Correspondent Blackpool The National Association of Head Teachers at Blackpool yesterday, by 7,065 votes to 4,831, called on the Government to reconsider whether the school-leaving age should stay at 16 in view of massive cuts in educational spending.

day when the age would be raised again—a view which the conference greeted with shouts of dismay. Mr Frank Mills, St Albans, said the association's pay policy would cost the Government an extra £300m, but the education service must either be reformed or merged. Teachers' anxiety would be unparalled unless the pay review produced results by September.

It was a surprise result, against the wishes of nearly all the members of the executive council. The association, which has 17,500 members, supported a demand for up to £9,000 a year for some head teachers. It warned the Government that unless "proper wages" were paid schools would start to disintegrate within a year and collapse in five.

The head teachers threatened to stop supervising school lunches because of the "inadequate help" from other staff. They also asked the Government to force local authorities to set up units for pupils who exhibited in truancy and antisocial behaviour. Mr C. E. Hughes, south Gloucestershire, told the 500 delegates that the raising of the school-leaving age to 16 was "the Dutch elm disease of secondary education".

MP proposes anti-inflation coalition

The Government's handling of inflation was criticized yesterday by two Conservative MPs and a third put forward the idea of a coalition to deal with the issue. Sir Harmer Nicholls, MP for Peterborough, said it was his constituency: "Why not a coalition for the lifetime of a four-year Parliament to overcome inflation? Unions distrust the Tories and managers, and investors distrust socialism."

called "Labour's policy of appeasement" over inflation, which he described as "unrealistic and futile". Policy of appeasement in the 1930s, he said, had welcomed the forthcoming inquires into nurses' and teachers' pay, which were "precisely what we set up the Relativities Board for".

In brief

Woman battered to death in flat

Police were yesterday seeking a man whose name had been found battered to death in a flat in Colchester, Essex. Detectives said they did not exclude a possible link with the death and that of a Colchester woman who was found stabbed at her home.

Two hurt in air crash

Two men escaped with minor injuries and another was killed when the British Airways jetliner crashed at Southend port last night while coming from Le Touquet.

Duke eliminated

The Duke of Edinburgh, escaped injury in the bot driving trials at Loughborough, Leicestershire, on Saturday when his carriage overturned, was eliminated yesterday for taking the wrong route.

Motorway repairs ban

Garage men near the M5 Worcester road are refusing to do repairs on the road should after a meeting was held Saturday by a petition car. It will tow breakdown off motorway.

BBC sport disrupted

Bank holiday sports programmes were disrupted yesterday on BBC television through a series of strikes by members of the National Association of Theatrical, Television and Film Employees, who are demanding a rise of £1.50 a week.

Kirk education plea

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland yesterday urged Mr Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland, to introduce legislation to give full recognition to religious education schools.

MP walks 231 miles to a world record

Mr Richard Crawshaw, aged 56, Labour MP for Liverpool, Toxteth, set a world record last night by completing a 231-mile walk for charity. The previous record was 230 1/2 miles. The walk began on Friday evening at Altrincham racecourse. It was organized by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Poster campaign will urge alcoholics to seek aid

A national poster campaign to help alcoholics to seek help was launched yesterday. The posters, issued by the National Council on Alcoholism (NCA), show an empty bottle and an upturned whisky glass in front of a telephone with the message: "A way to put down the bottle is to pick up the phone." The telephone number of the council's local office is given.

They get to 'rock bottom' and then they must get to their feet. Their problem is still social one, not five or six years later, when it is a medical one that includes physical dependence on alcohol. Drinkers must be persuaded that there was no moral stigma and that they were suffering from a medical condition which could be prevented.

Weather forecast and recordings

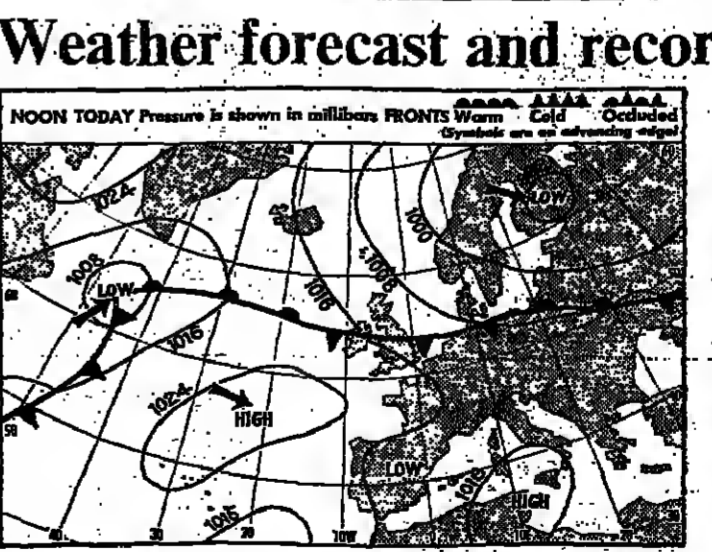


Table with weather data for various locations including London, Manchester, and other major UK cities. Columns include location, temperature, and weather conditions.

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HOME NEWS

Pay Board report on London allowances must balance breakdown risk and inflation

By Raymond Perman, Labour Staff

The Pay Board is working on the final stages of what could be its most important report, enabling many thousands of workers to claim rises on top of anything payable under Phase Three.

Today it will be hearing the last of a long line of employers' and unions who have given their views on London weighting allowances. Also being examined are the first results from a computer of a questionnaire on housing and travelling expenditure put to 65,000 people; a survey of 250 companies paying London allowances and a study of the retail costs inside and outside the capital.

The board's eight members will discuss and assess the evidence before delivering the report to Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, about the end of June.

It is bound to be a controversial document. About 750,000 workers in the public and private sectors receive a weighting allowance of some kind. More than 2,000 staff in town halls throughout the capital are on strike for increases in their allowances well above Phase Three limits, and militant teachers are threatening to walk

out of schools as part of their campaign.

The Confederation of British Industry has told the board that many employers are looking to its recommendations to solve the critical staff shortages. The seriousness of the task has not been lost on the Pay Board. In a recent speech Mr Derek Robinson, one of the board's deputy chairmen, said: "It has been put to us that the whole social fabric of London is in danger of disintegration; the provision of certain basic and essential services, mainly in the public sector but also in the private, might be seriously damaged if we do not set the answers right."

When the board is abolished later this year the London weighting report is likely to be its only lasting memorial. It will be the first official study of allowances since Report 44 of the National Board for Prices and Incomes in 1967, which provided the basis for calculating allowances for public employees. Dissatisfaction with this basis has largely led to the present disputes.

Serious staff shortages in local government, teaching and London Transport are the most dramatic illustrations of a more general problem. Yet Report 44 rejected the idea of increasing weighting allowances sufficiently to attract staff into particular industries because of the

fear that it would lead to a wage war between employers and to accelerating inflation. The only criterion was to be the extra cost of homes and travelling to London.

Critics of the report say that the formula it produced has meant allowances which do not even compensate for those. In 1972, at the height of the house price boom, teachers were offered £15 a year on top of their allowance of £118. They rejected it out of hand and are now claiming an extra £232.

Civil servants want their allowances more than doubled to £50 for inner London and £30 for the outskirts. They say that £200 a year is needed to compensate for the additional housing costs in the centre; £100 for fares; £91 for extra travelling time; and £21 to make up for the strain of city commuting.

Local authorities have agreed to pay town hall staff interim increases of between £18 and £218, and are looking to the Pay Board report to provide an answer to critical staff shortages. The major banks are ready to pay increases of up to £100 for their London staff as soon as the law allows.

The board has to find a new formula that will balance the threat of inflation with the threat of a breakdown of essential services. It will be Mr Foot's responsibility to fit that formula into the voluntary incomes policy which the Government intends should follow Phase Three.



The first day field in the Milk Race near Midhurst, Sussex, yesterday, when the 1,100-mile amateur cycling event started from Brighton.

'Scots-Welsh lead in comprehensives'

By Our Education Correspondent

England is lagging behind Wales and Scotland in comprehensive education, Mrs Caroline Beon, the educationist, says in an article published today.

Scotland and Wales can claim three-quarters of 15-year-olds in comprehensive schools; England has yet to reach half, she writes in *Forum*, a magazine which favours comprehensive schools.

A survey that she has undertaken but which she has yet to publish, shows that only 7 per cent of comprehensive schools in Wales coexist with grammar schools, whereas 56 per cent of English comprehensive schools do so.

Six remanded on cannabis charge

Four men and two women were remanded in custody for a week by magistrates at Lewes, Sussex, yesterday, charged with illegally importing cannabis at Newhaven.

Customs officers and drug squad detectives raided a rented house at Heathfield, near Eastbourne, at the weekend and seized £30,000 of cannabis.

Oil-rig litter drifts in

Sheringham beach, Norfolk, is littered with rubbish believed by residents to have come ashore after being dumped from North Sea oil rigs.

Funds urged to help young homosexuals

From Stephen Cohen of *The Times Educational Supplement*

Government funds for the work of Parents' Enquiry, a voluntary organization which helps parents of young homosexuals to understand their difficulties, were called for at the annual conference of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality at Malvern yesterday.

In a nine-point resolution 750 delegates voted overwhelmingly to direct their energies towards alleviating the difficulties faced by homosexuals under 21.

Leaflets and posters are to be produced, public meetings arranged and approaches made to youth clubs, scouts and girl guides and the Department of Education and Science. Student and youth counsellors are to be sent study kits.

The conference agreed that the age of consent should be 16 and that the law should offer protection against exploitation to people below that age.

Mr Michael De-la-Noy, a vice-president of the campaign, was censured for remarks he made when he opened the conference on Saturday. He threatened to withdraw his support if delegates voted to accept an age of consent of 12. There was no such proposal.

The executive committee was asked to remove his name from the list of vice-presidents.

Man on Palace gates charge

A man alleged to have driven his van into the gates of Buckingham Palace and at four newspaper buildings on Sunday night was remanded on bail until June 4 at Bow Street magistrates' court yesterday.

He is Peter Chappell, aged 33, lorry driver, of Vager Street, Bow, who was charged with driving, under the influence of alcohol, driving without insurance, and failing to obey a road sign, and also faced five charges of criminal damage.

Flaw in paving stone cheque

A cheque written on a paving stone by a woman councillor for her rates has been rejected.

Mrs Margaret Butler, a Liberal member of Oxford City Council, pushed her paving stone cheque to the council offices in a wheelbarrow in protest against plans to pave one of the city's main shopping streets. The bank is refusing to pay because it is not satisfied with the signature.

Land pressure group halts

The Campaign for the Nationalization of Land has moved into suspended animation with a deficit of £268.04 (our Political Staff writes).

During its life from September 1, 1973, to February 1, 1974, the pressure group, which set itself the task of nationalizing land had subscriptions of £103, and total receipts of £279. It spent £547, mainly on printing.

£142,000 success
Norfolk Naturalists' Trust has raised £142,000 by public appeal to buy land for nature and wildlife reserves.

30 hurt in crash
Thirty passengers were injured, one seriously, when two coaches were in collision near Alton, Hampshire, late on Sunday night.

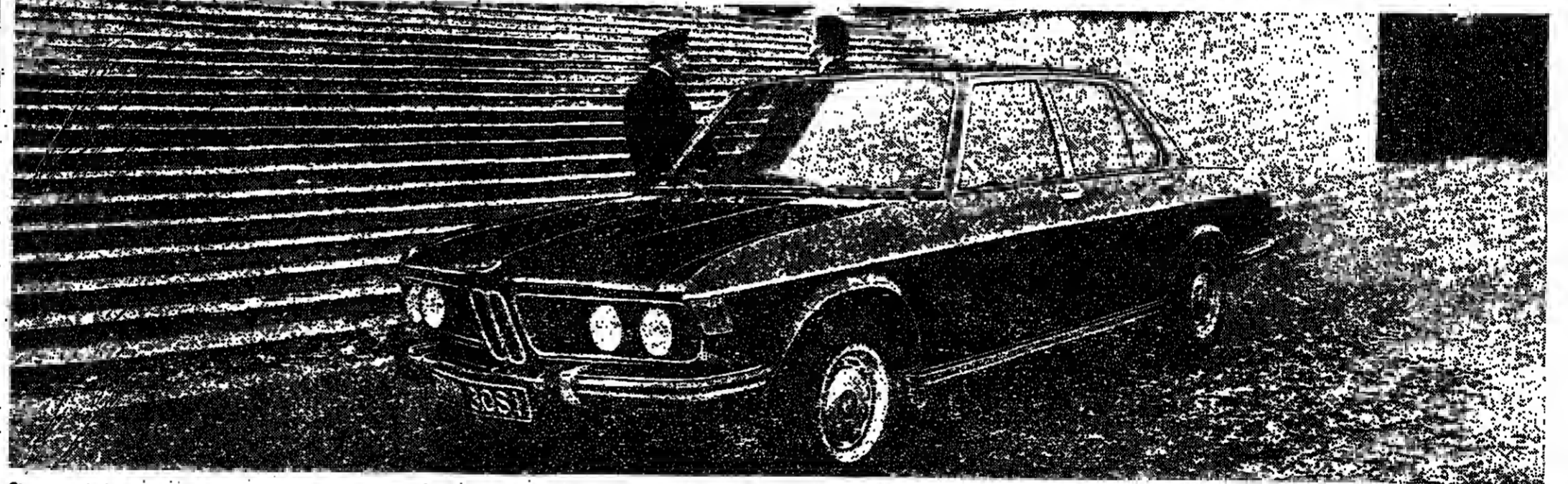
Whip withdrawn
Five councillors of Clay Cross, who have had the Labour whip in the North-East Derbyshire District Council withdrawn from them, claimed yesterday that it was because of their support of dustmen in a pay demand.

The power of success.



'The up and coming' BMW 2002ti 0-60 in 8.0 secs. Top speed 116 mph. 41 mpg.

'The power-chaser' BMW 525 0-60 in 9.6 secs. Top speed 120 mph. 32.5 mpg.



'The executive express' BMW 3.0SI 0-60 in 7.4 secs. Top speed 132 mph. 34.45 mpg.

BMW 3.3L 'limousine' 0-60 in 9.0 secs. Top speed 130 mph. 25.3 mpg.



BMW 2500 2-door model 0-60 in 9.4 secs. Top speed 121 mph. 34 mpg.



'Power unlimited' BMW 3.0CSi Coupé 0-60 in 7.5 secs. Top speed 140 mph. 35.03 mpg.

... Or go bananas, with the revolutionary new BMW 2002 Turbo! 0-60 in 6.8 secs. Top speed 131 mph. 190 hp (SAE). The first turbo-charged, hand-assembled car in the world to be put into series production. In its European Saloon Car Championship winning form, this engine was producing in excess of 300 hp.

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For power - because BMW's engines are precision-built and individually bench-tested... hand-tuned to guarantee the highest measure of efficiency and dependability.

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HOME NEWS

Dilemma faces MPs' committee keeping an eye on EEC laws

By John Gross
Political Staff
MPs on both sides of the House are expressing concern about the effectiveness of the European Secondary Legislation Committee...

Editors say Bill has makings of 'rogues' charter

Newspaper editors yesterday attacked a proposed law which, they said, "has all the makings of a rogues' charter". The Guild of British Newspaper Editors is urging the Government to delay the passage of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Bill...

Fire fear underlies Canvey islanders' refineries battle

By John Young
Planning Reporter
Canvey Island, on the northern shore of the Thames estuary a few miles west of Southend-on-Sea is not many people's idea of a healthy spot. It is a place of flat meadows, housing estates, a handful of factories, and a couple of holiday camps...

European Law Report

Week ending May 17
J. Nold, Koblenz and Bausatz-Grossstadt, in the Land (Federal Republic of Germany)
Commission of the European Communities
Before the President, Judge R. Lecourt, and Judges A. Donner, M. Sorenson, P. Pescatore, H. Kutscher, C. O'Dalgaib, Lord MacKenna and Stuart.

WEST EUROPE

M Giscard plans to be 'modern President'

From Richard Wigg
Paris, May 27
Walking on foot to the Elysée Palace as a simple citizen dressed in a lounge suit and shaking hands among the waiting crowds...

Editors say Bill has makings of 'rogues' charter

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OVERSEAS

Luxembourg may get a centre-left coalition

Luxembourg, May 27.—The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg was in political disarray today after the surprise victory of groups of the ruling, conservative Christian Social Party in yesterday's general election...

Mass arrests force India's railmen to abandon strike

From Michael Hornsby
Delhi, May 27
The action committee representing India's militant railwaymen announced tonight that it had "resolved unilaterally to call off" the 20-day-old national rail strike from 6 am tomorrow...

Four talks with Mr Bhutto tame Punjab rebel

From Our Correspondent
Rawalpindi, May 27
Mr Bhutto, the Pakistan Prime Minister, who until last week faced apparently serious opposition from his chief lieutenant, Mr Mustafa Khar, in the Punjab People's Party, appears to have tamed the rebel Punjab...

Full independence sought in talks on Guinea-Bissau

By Nicholas Ashford
The London peace talks between the Portuguese and the Guinea-Bissau nationalists (PAIGC) enter their fourth day today without any clear indication that an early settlement may be in sight...

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Mr Whitlam may have a clear Senate majority

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, May 27
Mr Gough Whitlam, the Australian Prime Minister, is to make a nationwide television and radio broadcast on Thursday in which he will announce the return of his Government to office on the strength of the result of the recent general election...



A wave to the crowds from President Giscard d'Estaing as he walks down the Champs Elysées yesterday with (from left) M. Messmer, the outgoing Premier, M. Polner, president of the Senate, and General Morin, Army Chief of Staff.

along the upper end of the hedgehog Champs Elysées. A rousing revolutionary march, the "Chant du Départ" which the President used during his election campaign was frequently played today as well as the "Marseillaise" in a further innovation...

Iceland poll 'means end of leftist government'

Reykjavik, May 27.—Opposition politicians today forecast the end of left-wing government in Iceland after voting in the right in municipal polls yesterday. A general election is to be held next month...

Rome court suspends release of anarchists

Rome, May 27.—The Supreme Court in Rome today temporarily suspended a Genoa court's decision granting provisional liberty to eight convicted anarchists in exchange for the release of the kidnaped magistrate, Dr Mario Sossi...

Telephonists sent to jail for Vatican thefts

Rome, May 27.—A Vatican court today sentenced a former Vatican telephone operator to three years' jail and another to 14 months for stealing medals and other precious objects from the Pope's private apartments...

Racing driver dies

Locarno, May 27.—The Swiss racing driver Silvio Moser died in hospital here last night from injuries he suffered in a crash in the Monza 1,000 km race in Italy last month. He was 33.—Reuter.

Court of Justice of the European Communities

European Court approach to human rights

Nold had dropped its claims against Ruhrkohle and Rührwerke. Verkauf but had maintained its submission that the Commission's decision should be quashed on grounds that it was not properly motivated if discriminated against Nold and infringed fundamental rights of property...

Vital supplies get through to trapped men

Kuwait, May 27.—Water and oxygen was fed to men trapped in the wreckage of a half-completed office block in central Kuwait today...

Jail for trying to destroy film about Christ

Athens, May 27.—An A court today sentenced a student to 10 months in jail for attempting to destroy a film about the life of Jesus Christ Superstar...

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President Thieu dismisses leading party adviser

From Victoria Britain
Saigon, May 27
For the first time in five years President Thieu has dismissed one of his few close advisers, for reasons which are being kept secret...

OVERSEAS

Dr Kissinger narrows differences on Golan accord to 'very few' as Mr Gromyko arrives in Syria

Damascus, May 27.—Dr Henry Kissinger flew back to Israel tonight after Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, arrived here to check up on the rest state of the Middle East peace negotiations.

was greeted by Syrian officials. There was no official hint of the purpose of the Soviet minister's visit, but diplomatic sources said he would undoubtedly hold discussions with Syrian leaders on the Kissinger negotiations.—Reuter and UPI.

Labour Party leaders to thrash out differences over the make-up of his Cabinet, Mr Rabin, the Prime Minister-designate, had to postpone it until tomorrow and take part in talks with Dr Kissinger.



Delegates to the tenth congress of the Yugoslav League of Communists greet President Tito and his wife.

Yugoslavia ready to defend its independence

From Dassa Tverizan Belgrade, May 27 In his report to the tenth congress of the Communist Party, which opened here this morning, President Tito declared that Yugoslavia would fight to defend its independence.

Tito's oldest and most trusted comrades in arms, who enjoy sufficient authority in their own republics but who are also able to represent federal authority which, in the past, had been divided on national and ideological issues.

That conflicts between socialist countries were also possible, alluding, no doubt, to the Sino-Soviet conflict.

Mr Chou En-lai, the Prime Minister, told British reporters today that his health was "not so good as before".

Mr Chou admits his health is not so good

From David Bonavia Peking, May 27 Mr Chou En-lai, the Prime Minister, told British reporters today that his health was "not so good as before".

Pressure on Mr Nixon to obey five subpoenas

From Patrick Brogan Washington, May 27 The Supreme Court reconvenes tomorrow after the Memorial Day recess, and will have its first opportunity to involve itself in Watergate.

South Africa urged to release prisoners

From Our Correspondent Johannesburg, May 27 The leader of one of the African homelands today urged the South African Government to free political prisoners.

Miss Lestor in Lusaka to discuss Rhodesia

Lusaka, May 27.—Miss Joan Lestor, Under-Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, arrived here today for talks which include a review of the Rhodesian situation in the light of developments in Portugal.

S Africa barred from world postal meeting

Lausanne, May 27.—Delegates to the annual conference of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) today barred South Africa from taking part in its proceedings.

Moscow opts out of Soviet celebration

From Edmund Stevens Moscow, May 27 The mystery surrounding the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Academy of Sciences deepens.

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Advertisement for Sotheby's auction house. Features a large image of a Japanese Kyokurokun chair and a German horn powder flask. Text includes 'Last week at Sotheby's', prices like £4,500 and £1,600, and a list of items for sale.

£4,000 plus Appointments

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Sun Life Assurance Society Ltd An expanding public company with assets of over £500,000,000 requires a Young Qualified Accountant c. £4000 p.a. to take charge of the re-structured financial accounts section of its Central Accounts Department

Appointments Vacant also on page 25

GENERAL VACANCIES AUDIO ENGINEER Canadian Broadcasting Corporation requires experienced engineer to share in operation of its radio control room in London. Duties include recording, packaging and transmission of broadcast material (mainly news and current affairs) and maintenance of studio equipment.

A Career in Advertising The Marketing Department of a leading newspaper group requires a man (20-25) to work within their advertising section. Further specialised training given if needed. Essential qualities desired are intelligence, energy and determination.

NEW INTERNATIONALIST KEY MARKETING JOB Promoting world development magazine, sponsored by Oxfam and Christian Aid. Demanding, rewarding work with young enthusiastic team, for anyone interested in development or print. Helpful assets: initiative, driving, typing, fluency. Salary negotiable £1,900+. Start soonest. Contact: New Internationalist, Stage House, 108 Street, Benson, Oxon. Telephone Crommarsh 4234 or 4717.

Marshall Cavendish Ltd, Publishers. PICTURE RESEARCHER. Thought experience in picture research would be useful, it is not essential. The successful candidate will be a person who is keen to learn and has a good knowledge of the picture industry.

BOOK PUBLISHERS PROMOTION ASSISTANT with previous experience in advertising or public relations preferred. Salary negotiable according to age and experience. No less than £1,500. Reply to Betty Cox, Hutchinson Publishing Group, 3 Fitzroy Square, W.1.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL An 'overseas' Agency. Check is sought by an International Finance Co. If you have up to total balance approximately 20 to 25, willing to travel and looking for £2,000+, call Nigel Sims, 581 2947.

EDITORIAL VACANCIES Butterworth's, the leading legal publishers, are looking for legally-qualified men and women to join their editorial team working on various major publications.

ACCOUNTANCY A.C.A.'s and Finance wanted for 30 temporary assignments. ACCOUNTANT, ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT, require qualifications and experience for various positions in a wide range of firms.

GENERAL VACANCIES PERSONAL CHAUFFEUR A Medical Consultant with a practice in the Harley Street area requires a personal chauffeur from Monday to Friday. Salary will be generous and there are a number of attractive fringe benefits.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS The Open University Part-time Tutors & Counsellors Applications are invited for the following part-time posts to take effect from January, 1975:

RESTAURANT MANAGER Preferably English-speaking Manager required for new elegant Restaurant opening in July in Chelsea. Must have had supervisory experience in first-class establishments. Salary £5,000 per annum plus. Ring 01-589 6625

TOWN PLANNERS South Australian Housing Trust Planners are wanted for exciting new innovative developments in South Australia in, near and away from the city. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience and will be within the range \$A9,521-\$A12,930 per annum.

City firm with growing shipping practice seeks assistant SOLICITOR with two years or more experience in admiralty law who wishes to extend his experience into the commercial aspects of SHIPPING.

TRAINEE MANAGERS £4,000 MALE/FEMALE, AGE 22-28, required for permanent positions - NOT DIRECT SELLING. Applicants should be Sales oriented. Salary white training £1,800. Excellent opportunity for promotion to management realising the above salary.

Chief Accountant/Export Manager CHERTSEY, SURREY The European Headquarters of this major U.S. paper covering and packaging company is setting up a special operating unit to handle sales to European customers.

MASTER OF DULWICH COLLEGE The Governors invite applications for the post of MASTER which will become vacant on 1st September, 1975, on the retirement of Mr. C. W. Lloyd.

DYNAMIC TOWN PLANNER to lead our team. Design work will be carried out in London. Initial appointment from 12 to 15 months. Salary in excess of £7,500 Apply with curriculum vitae: ROTTENBERG ASSOCIATES 134 Gloucester Avenue, London NW1 8JA. 01-586 4343

SPORT

Cricket
Asif's strokes flow as Kent put themselves in strong position

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
THE OVAL: Surrey, with seven second innings wickets in hand, are 30 runs behind Kent.



Luckhurst driving during his innings of 61 for Kent yesterday.

Kent should win their first championship victory of the season at the Oval today—over Surrey, who have yet to be beaten. Yesterday they gained a first innings lead of 117 before losing the wickets of Edwards, Owen-Thomas and Edrich in Surrey's second innings.

Surrey had to make do without Arnold's bowling—his without a successive ball in his first over by Asif and Johnson of all people, two I would be glad to have catching for my life.

Opening Kent's bowling in Julien's place, Shepherd had Edwards dropped twice at slip, off successive balls, in his first over by Asif and Johnson of all people, two I would be glad to have catching for my life.

Rove was playing only because Coveley has something the wicket with his hand. He is 22, an old boy of King's, Canterbury, who captained the English Schools' side at Lord's and is now in India with them.

The real test of the day was an innings of 122 by Asif, for an hour and a half his strokes flowed, as they do only for the fortunate few.

Asif put down a long leg and a half in the field and batted confidently, if not for long. His first ball—hit as an off-spinner—was pitched outside the leg stump, and Edrich, swinging at it, miscued off the edge or back of the bat to 117 before losing the wickets of Edwards, Owen-Thomas and Edrich in Surrey's second innings.

But having made 30 out of 35 as though he thought this must be his day, Edwards booked a long bow straight to long leg. When Owen-Thomas was at the pick-up at short leg, off a firm stroke, Edrich dug himself in for the night. That was the idea, anyway, and it was working all right, with 10 minutes to go, Rowe was brought in.

Rowe was playing only because Coveley has something the wicket with his hand. He is 22, an old boy of King's, Canterbury, who captained the English Schools' side at Lord's and is now in India with them.

He made some marvellous saves, besides bowling as well as I have seen him bowl. With Arnold off to come (a bruised head did not prevent his batting) so that the missing of Edlbam probably made less difference than it seemed to do at the time.

In spite of being hit for two sixes and a four in one over by Edlbam, Pocock bowled well. In the second over of the afternoon, he was bowled trying another shot, whenever the ball went anywhere near Roope at short extra cover.

It was a pity that the day was an innings of 122 by Asif, for an hour and a half his strokes flowed, as they do only for the fortunate few.

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Shuttleworth takes seven wickets

By Peter West

HEADINGLEY: Lancashire lead Yorkshire by 107 runs, with seven second innings wickets in hand.

Shuttleworth now accorded a warm reception for Squires, who booked a bouncer directly to Lever at long leg, who took a fine catch with both feet inside the boundary line—to meet the requirements of the law—before overbalancing backwards across it.

Lloyd fell to a diving catch by Sharpe et al. Spelgrove, no slung guard either, was leg before to Nicholson, who soon had Pilling offering another catch to Sharpe.

When Old was bowled on the back foot, by a ball that kept indecently low, Shuttleworth had taken all five wickets for 33. He had scored in the next one, too, catching Owen from Barrett off Simmons. Then, when Huxton had succumbed to a faster ball from Simmons, Carrick was bowled, shattering arms, by Shuttleworth.

Headbatter has always looked a calm, well organized batsman, if not the most active or alert of runners between wickets. It was his leg in play that took the eye here.

Shuttleworth had Cope before, pushing forward to the first ball after tea, but although Yorkshire had been playing extra over on the first innings, Leadbeater missed the century after batting for three hours and 40 minutes.

Balance favours Gloucestershire

By Alan Gibson

BRISTOL: Somerset, with four second innings wickets in hand, are 114 runs ahead of Gloucestershire.

A nicely balanced match saw Gloucestershire's way in the last minutes with Somerset losing unnecessary wickets. The pitch is still playing securely, if slowly, and Somerset recovery here could be impossible, but they did themselves much damage in that last hour.

This has been a balanced match so far, the weight tilting one way or the other. It is not clear that the result will probably depend on a declaration. It was another warm and sunny day with a larger crowd than this match, traditional to the spring holiday, has drawn at Bristol for some years.

It was seven points each on the first innings. On Saturday Somerset scored 254 in 100 overs and Gloucestershire lost four wickets for 104 in 42 overs.

Gloucestershire ultimately managed a first century for the first time since 1911, when they were 101 in 100 overs and 100 in 100 overs.

When Somerset went in again, Gloucestershire were bowled out in 27.1 overs and lost four wickets for 104 in 42 overs.

Richardson's 225 in Hampshire's win

Hampshire yesterday moved to the top of the county table after their victory in two days over Nottinghamshire by an innings and 101 runs at Nottingham.

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Featherstone tips scales Middlesex way

By Peter Marson

LORD'S: Middlesex, with six second innings wickets in hand, lead Sussex by 216 runs.

The balance shifted considerably in this match yesterday, as well as that the martlet who, with justification had preened its feathers on Saturday night will be light on its feet today.

Featherstone and Brearley were chiefly the reasons why. Featherstone must be complimented for seeing his chance on a good pitch, and before a good holiday crowd, by today's standards anyway. He made the highest score of his career, 125. He had opened the innings with Smith at a quarter to one and 72 runs had been added when Smith drove over a ball from Spencer and was bowled.

In the early part of his innings Featherstone and Smith too, had struggled a little against the bowling of Snow and Greig, but Featherstone was finally untroubled by the time Brearley came to join him.

Featherstone and Brearley were chiefly the reasons why. Featherstone must be complimented for seeing his chance on a good pitch, and before a good holiday crowd, by today's standards anyway. He made the highest score of his career, 125. He had opened the innings with Smith at a quarter to one and 72 runs had been added when Smith drove over a ball from Spencer and was bowled.

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Balance favours Gloucestershire

By Alan Gibson

BRISTOL: Somerset, with four second innings wickets in hand, are 114 runs ahead of Gloucestershire.

A nicely balanced match saw Gloucestershire's way in the last minutes with Somerset losing unnecessary wickets. The pitch is still playing securely, if slowly, and Somerset recovery here could be impossible, but they did themselves much damage in that last hour.

This has been a balanced match so far, the weight tilting one way or the other. It is not clear that the result will probably depend on a declaration. It was another warm and sunny day with a larger crowd than this match, traditional to the spring holiday, has drawn at Bristol for some years.

It was seven points each on the first innings. On Saturday Somerset scored 254 in 100 overs and Gloucestershire lost four wickets for 104 in 42 overs.

Gloucestershire ultimately managed a first century for the first time since 1911, when they were 101 in 100 overs and 100 in 100 overs.

When Somerset went in again, Gloucestershire were bowled out in 27.1 overs and lost four wickets for 104 in 42 overs.

Richardson's 225 in Hampshire's win

By Peter West

Hampshire yesterday moved to the top of the county table after their victory in two days over Nottinghamshire by an innings and 101 runs at Nottingham.

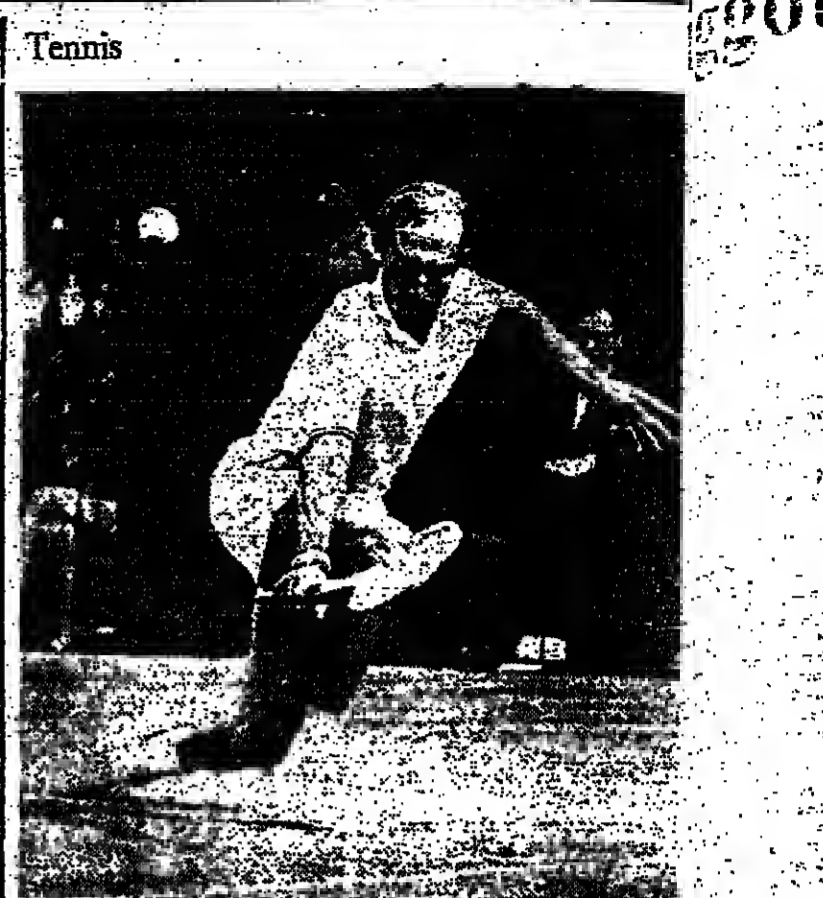
Richardson's 225 in Hampshire's win

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Richardson's 225 in Hampshire's win

Hampshire yesterday moved to the top of the county table after their victory in two days over Nottinghamshire by an innings and 101 runs at Nottingham.

HAIG Double Scotch Wonder romps home at 3.30. Haig Highness at 7.30. Don't be vague. Win with Haig.



Stan Smith: one of four Americans to come through to the second round of the Italian open championships.

Smith made to struggle before Kuki crumbles

Rome, May 27.—Stan Smith comfortably beat Juan Kuki of Japan 7-5, 7-5 today in the first round of the Italian open tennis championships.

Smith, fourth-seeded in the tournament, broke Kuki's service in the seventh and eleventh games to take the first set 7-5. The second set was a struggle, but the Japanese, one of the eight qualifying round winners, came back strongly in the second set, breaking Smith's service in the second and fifth games.

Smith was one of four American men who came through the first round of the singles. The others were Tom Gorman, the 11th seed, and the unseeded Erik van Dillen and Charles Pasarell. Gorman beat 12th-seeded Harold Solomon, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, and Pasarell beat another American, Paul Gerken, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2.

Italy's leading tennis player, Adriano Panatta, who was the first to be nominated for the 1974 Wimbledon tournament, lost to 12th-seeded Pasarell in the first round.

The Italian Tennis Federation, the ruling body of the sport, is to ask the International Tennis Federation to change the rules of the championships, a day earlier than scheduled, when Pasarell lost his opening match to the Egyptian Ismail El Shadi.

Basil Rey, secretary of the Federation, said in London today: "The Italians did not have our permission to start a day earlier."

Irish girl misses five chances for victory

Susan Minford, from Belfast, went down under pressure to a 21-year-old Californian, Kate Latham 3-6, 9-8, 6-6 after serving for victory three times in the final of the Surrey grass court tennis championships, sponsored by Rothmans, at Sirbinton yesterday.

Three times in the twelfth game of the final set of the three hour match Miss Minford failed when she had match point. The first time she was apparently serving without hope of a Test place yesterday, playing only seven minutes with a top score of 22, but she was out of the match in 22 minutes while his colleagues fell by the wayside.

When Latham arrived, Naik became more determined and needed only 50 minutes more to reach three figures—only the fourth time in the history of the championships that a player has been able to declare at 281 for seven in reply to 278. Only once before in the history of the championships had the Indians led off first innings.

Earlier Wade struck a dazzling 57 in a stand of 75 with Naik that threatened to give the touring side a pulled muscle ahead of the Indian captain. In 35 minutes batting Essex lost Edmedes and East and were nine for two at the close, giving the Indians hopes of their first tour victory.

Jameson hit his fourth first class century of the season at Birmingham to take Warwickshire from the brink of defeat to establish a lead of 169 with five wickets in hand. He took Essex without a score at six but went on to bat for 225 minutes for his 123, hitting 17 fours.

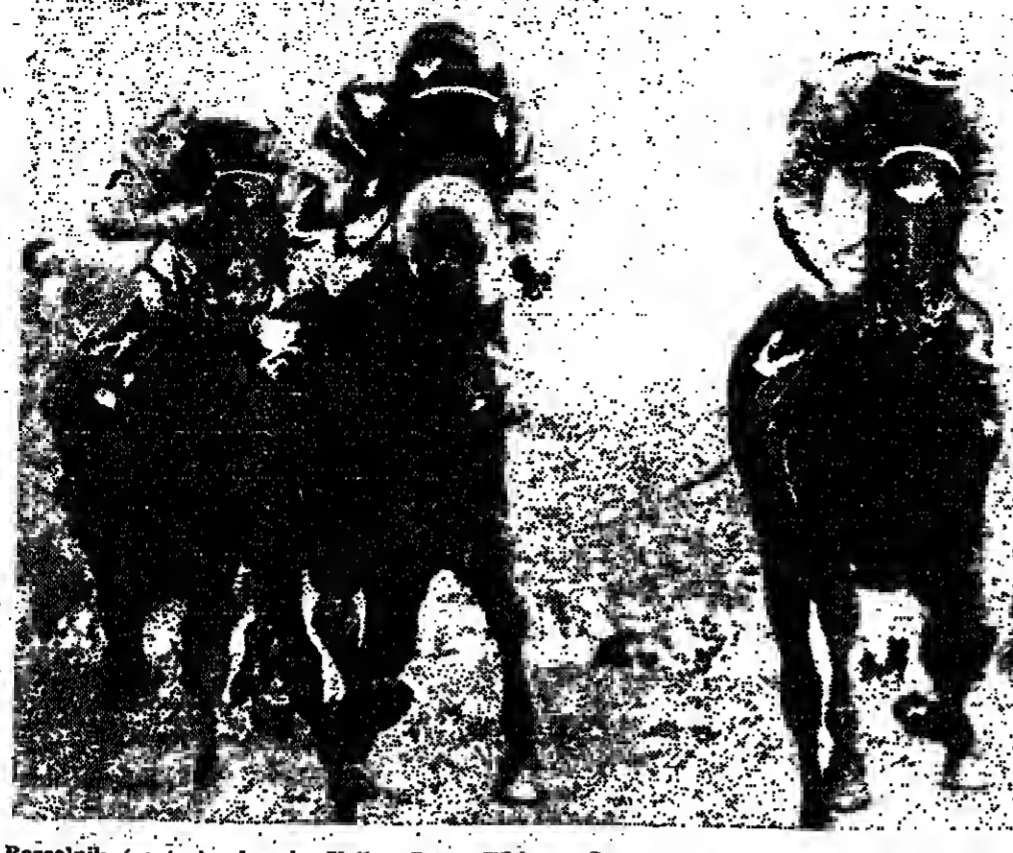
Jameson and Kelliheran added 92 and, partnered by Kanhai (60), they set a record total of 334 in 169 minutes.

Boxing Monzon plans two bouts before retiring. Bugner defends his title in Denmark. Miss Wade seeded second in French championships. Hendrick replaces injured Arnold. Finns ban goalkeeper. Notts v Hampshire. Essex v Indians. Glamorgan v Leicester. Worcester v Derbyshire. Warwick v Northants. Notts v Hampshire. Essex v Indians. Glamorgan v Leicester. Worcester v Derbyshire. Warwick v Northants.

PORT racing

Piggott confirms Mississippian ride

Michael Phillips, racing correspondent, reports that Lester Piggott confirmed he would ride the colt on Mississippian in the 10-1 Northern Stakes...



Rascolnik (centre) wins the Yellow Pages Whitsun Cup from Averoff (right) at Sandown Park

With Pat Eddery winning the Richmond Handicap on the day, Piggott's ride on Rascolnik was a triumph...

Record, which reflects the fast state of the ground at Sandown. Piggott, an improving stayer by name, should win the Henry II Stakes today...

Four winners with Royal Ascot dates

Four winners at Chesham yesterday, Track Minstrel, Hard Fighter, Understudy and Divine King, were the important engagements at Royal Ascot next month...

Avon Valley's speed a potent factor

By Jim Snow, Northern Racing Correspondent. The useful staying handicapper, Fireflight, trained by Bill Marshall and ridden by his son, Richard, came from behind to win the Vaux Gold Tankard at Redcar yesterday...

Matinee slips but still wins Zetland Handicap

Matinee gave the outstanding performance of the day when narrowly winning the Zetland Handicap at Doncaster yesterday. The filly, who started favourite, almost slipped, but Frank Durr brought her through with a well-timed run to win by half a length from Polly Peacham...

andown Park programme

- RAILWAY HANDICAP (5212: 1m)
30 PORTSMOUTH ROAD PLATE (2-y-o): £690: 5f
HENRY II STAKES (3,458: 2m)
CHEQUERS FILLES STAKES (3-y-o): £1,182: 1m

Sandown Park selections

- By Our Racing Correspondent
2.0 Wm. River, 2.2 Blackbird, 3.0 RAGSTONE is specially recommended. 3.30 Santa's Sister, 4.0 Top Security, 4.30 The Duncie.
By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.30 Lord Henham, 3.30 Oulja, 4.0 Smart Sheila, 4.30 Major Green.

Redcar programme

- 2.0 SKELTON HANDICAP (3-y-o): £447: 1m
4.0 ESHER PLACE HANDICAP (3-y-o): £1,212: 2f
2.30 WILTON PLATE (2-y-o): £380: 5f
3.0 NORTHERN HANDICAP (2,1242: 5f)
3.30 KIRKLEATHAM PLATE (2,830: 14m)
By Our Northern Correspondent
2.0 RUSTIC RIVER is specially recommended. 2.30 Avon Valley, 3.30 Asset, 4.0 Rock Signal, 4.30 Nashville Lady.

Leicester programme

- 2.0 SAFFRON HANDICAP (2,998: 7f)
2.30 HATHERN STAKES (3-y-o): £298: 6f
3.0 FOREST HANDICAP (3-y-o): £690: 14m
3.30 WOODHOUSE EAVES PLATE (Maidens): 2-y-o: £345: 5f
By Our Northern Correspondent
2.0 Rustic River, 2.30 Cedar Grove is specially recommended. 3.30 Tryphon, 4.0 Levantina, 4.30 Silver Falcon.
By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.0 Cedar Grove, 3.30 Jacmel, 4.0 Levantina, 4.30 Royal Match.

Uttoxeter

- 2.0 MAYFIELD HURDLE (2,1242: 5f)
2.30 ORAYCOTT HURDLE (2,1242: 5f)
3.0 LITONETER MILE (2,1242: 5f)
3.30 MAYFIELD HILL CHASE (2,1242: 5f)
By Our Northern Correspondent
2.0 Rustic River, 2.30 Cedar Grove is specially recommended. 3.30 Tryphon, 4.0 Levantina, 4.30 Silver Falcon.

Mademoiselle stakes

- 4.0 FILTON HANDICAP (2,998: 7f)
4.30 BADDINGTON PLATE (2-y-o fillies): £207: 5f
5.0 YATE PLATE (3-y-o maiden fillies): £207: 7f
By Our Racing Correspondent
2.0 Successor, 2.30 The King's Easy, 3.0 Silken Breeze, 3.30 Blasketer, 4.0 Saint Paul, 4.30 Perfect Night, 5.0 Linda Jill.
By Our Newmarket Correspondent
3.0 So Valiant, 5.0 Pretty Jewel.

Chesham selections

- By Our Racing Correspondent
2.0 Successor, 2.30 The King's Easy, 3.0 Silken Breeze, 3.30 Blasketer, 4.0 Saint Paul, 4.30 Perfect Night, 5.0 Linda Jill.
By Our Newmarket Correspondent
3.0 So Valiant, 5.0 Pretty Jewel.

Devon

- 2.0 HARE FOR HURDLE (2,1242: 5f)
2.30 CORONATION HANDICAP (2,998: 7f)
4.0 ABBEY PARK PLATE (3-y-o): £276: 1m
By Our Northern Correspondent
2.0 Rustic River, 2.30 Cedar Grove is specially recommended. 3.30 Tryphon, 4.0 Levantina, 4.30 Silver Falcon.
By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.0 Cedar Grove, 3.30 Jacmel, 4.0 Levantina, 4.30 Royal Match.

Leicester selections

- By Our Northern Correspondent
2.0 Rustic River, 2.30 Cedar Grove is specially recommended. 3.30 Tryphon, 4.0 Levantina, 4.30 Silver Falcon.
By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.0 Cedar Grove, 3.30 Jacmel, 4.0 Levantina, 4.30 Royal Match.

Uttoxeter selections

- 2.0 Rustic River, 2.30 Cedar Grove is specially recommended. 3.30 Tryphon, 4.0 Levantina, 4.30 Silver Falcon.

andown Park results

- 1. MIREFIELD FLURY (w. 20.00)
2.0 STAN FERRIS (2, 1242: 5f)
3.0 RAGSTONE (2, 830: 14m)
4.0 Wm. River (2, 1242: 5f)
5.0 Linda Jill (2, 830: 14m)

Redcar

- 1. RUSTIC RIVER (w. 20.00)
2.0 Cedar Grove (2, 1242: 5f)
3.0 Jacmel (2, 1242: 5f)
4.0 Levantina (2, 1242: 5f)
5.0 Royal Match (2, 1242: 5f)

Leicester

- 1. RUSTIC RIVER (w. 20.00)
2.0 Cedar Grove (2, 1242: 5f)
3.0 Jacmel (2, 1242: 5f)
4.0 Levantina (2, 1242: 5f)
5.0 Royal Match (2, 1242: 5f)

Uttoxeter

- 1. RUSTIC RIVER (w. 20.00)
2.0 Cedar Grove (2, 1242: 5f)
3.0 Jacmel (2, 1242: 5f)
4.0 Levantina (2, 1242: 5f)
5.0 Royal Match (2, 1242: 5f)

Devon

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5.0 Royal Match (2, 1242: 5f)

andown Park results

Summary of race results for Sandown Park, including winners and odds.

Redcar

Summary of race results for Redcar, including winners and odds.

Leicester

Summary of race results for Leicester, including winners and odds.

Uttoxeter

Summary of race results for Uttoxeter, including winners and odds.

Devon

Summary of race results for Devon, including winners and odds.

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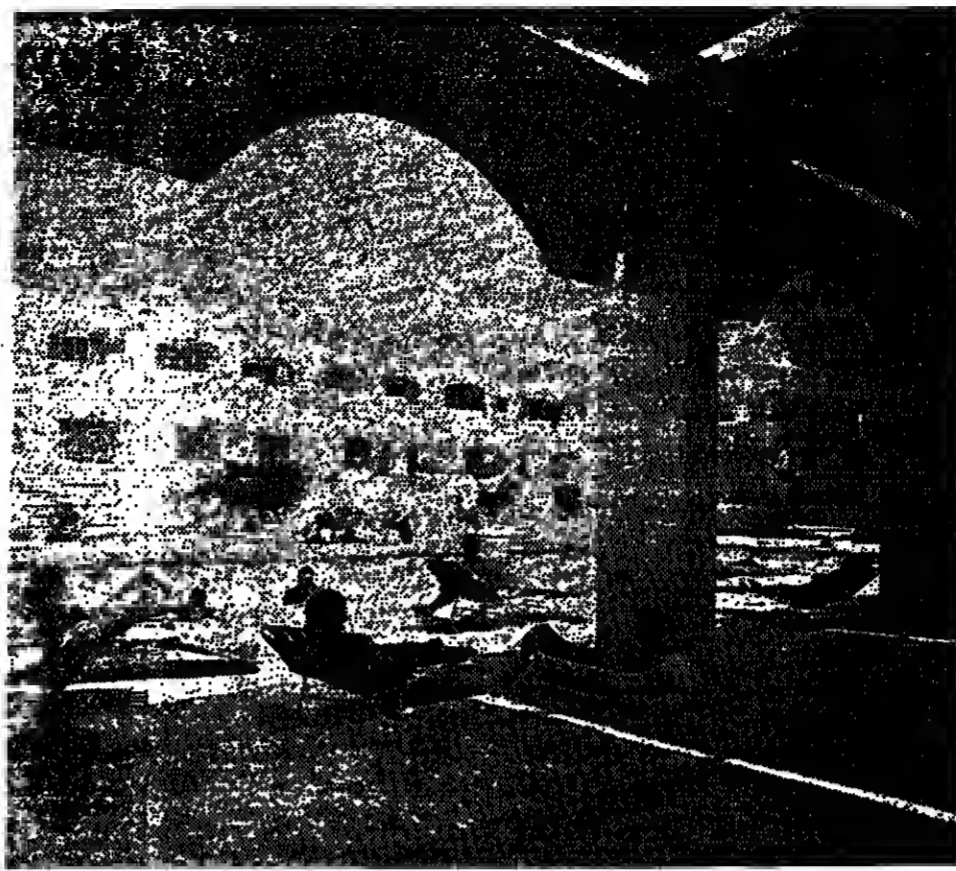
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a Special Report on tourism and property

MALTA



Three sights to gladden the eyes of tourists in Malta; from left: a priest is chaired through the streets of Valletta during celebrations for the Feast of St. John; the pool and linked villas surrounding it at the Charles Travel development, Marsa Scaia; a watchtower overlooking Grand Harbour adorned with eyes and ears, symbols of watchfulness.

The cost of living is low—but the standard is fairly high

by Geoffrey Weston

Through an open belfry in St. Publius's Church a long-haired youth could be seen tolling the bell furiously. Inside, a temporary covering of crimson damask trimmed with wide gold braid enriched almost every vertical surface. Above, brilliant chandeliers picked out the fresh looking gilding. The ornate canopy over the high altar, hung on an alarmingly thin cord, appeared about to crash on to a resplendent array of baroque silver candelsticks holding immensely tall candles.

Streets decorated with banners and humming were littered with drifts of white streamers kicked about by small boys. Draped and pictures of St. Publius hung from wooden balconies. As the hands on the church clock approached 6.30, a hand dressed in formal suits and peak caps assembled in the square and began to play, while anxious pigeons fluttered among the plasterers of the church portico.

The doors to the nave suddenly opened and disgorged a long colourful line of grave prelates bearing crosses and flickering lanterns on long wobbly poles, more banners and a heavy looking reliquary. Finally came the statue of St. Publius on a massive wooden litter carried on a wooden litter by eight straining bear-

ers. From the roof firecrackers exploded and tangled streamers like birds' nests fell on the stately procession below, as fairy lights lit up the whole façade.

Floriana's annual festa for its patron saint is, I was told, one of the less impressive in Malta. Throughout the island communities vie with each other to put on the most memorable jollies. The Malta calendar is also punctuated by secular festivities. May Day brings together the faithful of a different order acclaiming a parade of politically symbolic floats and their own leaders. Dom Mintoff, who this year rode in an open lorry like a victorious general, accorded a Roman triumph.

More interesting to visitors is the carnival held later the same month, when Valletta is treated to a parade of decorated cars, brass bands and delicious grotesque costumes. The folk festival at the end of June is held in the Buskett Gardens, one of the few wooded areas in Malta, where a traditional fare of rabbit dishes cooked in wine is accompanied by music and dancing.

The other main celebration lasts for four days from September and commemorates the victory over the Turks in 1565, the lifting of the siege in the Second World War and the attain-

ment of independence in 1964.

Most people come to Malta for less transient reasons. The emphasis on tourism is still quite new although lack of land space precludes any question of mass tourism as it is known in other Mediterranean lands. Nor are hotels hurried into tourist quarters. Few are old and most of the new ones have private bathrooms. Nearly half the accommodation is in hotels classed as luxury, 1A or 1B. The best can be very good indeed and conference facilities of varying degrees of advancement are offered at a number of the better hotels.

Much of the shore where there is ready access to the sea is rocky, and many swimmers either rake to the water from these areas or in the pools provided by many of the hotels. There are, however, some excellent sandy beaches, but they are not provided with as many beach facilities as countries with older tourist industries—which is an advantage to some.

Malta's hazy climate is only what is expected of the Mediterranean except that constant sea breezes are particularly welcome in high summer. Nowhere is far from the sea. The island is only 17 miles long and nine miles wide, while its sister island Gozo is about nine miles by four and Comino

less than two square miles.

Land erosion, which has taken its toll of Comino, has been checked in Malta by a system of rubble walls enclosing small areas. They are one of the most noticeable aspects of the landscape. The district around Valletta and the residential parts of Sliema and St. Julian's are heavily built up. In fact Malta is one of the most densely populated countries.

If all this gives a barren look to some regions, it would be wrong to deny the real attractions to be found. Any guide book on Malta will point out just how much is compressed into a small area. In a side street in Paola a small doorway leads to a staircase plunging to the famous Hypogeum, a system of caves and passages on several levels cut from solid rock about 2400 BC. Remarkably little is known about its origins.

Not far away are the remains of three interlinked temples at Tarxien, while at Ggantija on Gozo are even more imposing prehistoric remains. These are only the best known. Most visitors go to look at these prehistoric monuments and the sights of Valletta—the Palace of the Grand Masters, St. John's Cathedral and the National Museum. Above all, they take back memories of Grand Harbour, surely one of the most beautiful harbours in the world.

If the cost of living is low,

the standard is fairly high. In a good hotel it is unusual to pay more than about £1.25 for a meal or more than 50p for a bottle of very drinkable local wine. Local bus services are very good although taxi meters are remarkably prone to be out of order or out of date and fares become arbitrary.

Many British people have been sufficiently attracted to take up residence in Malta. English is still an official language and until recently qualifications for a residence permit were slack. Income tax is low, there are no rates and medical services are cheap and good—a legacy of the Knights of St. John.

During the dispute in 1972 between the Malta Government and Nato over payment for the naval base, there was some anxiety among British settlers. Some thought they would be forced to leave, and there was talk of anti-British feeling. The dispute arose shortly before the end of the property boom which had reached its height in about 1968-69. Young Maltese found it extremely difficult to buy homes and were inclined to resent the presence of the more affluent British, who had helped to push up prices. This feeling was never expressed in official circles and no physical violence occurred.

The present administration has taken great strides in building state housing and an undoubtedly existing talent stifled by the depressing fortress atmosphere.

With independence came new public buildings and houses for the well-to-do as well as many cottages and visitors' with interests other than military who both appreciated their work and made it worth their while. Those brief golden days are now over, and Malta shares the crises, doubts and insecurity of other countries, particularly the Middle East. Malta's artists once again yearn for better days.

Painting for painting's sake is ornamental and luxury, and therefore could not appeal to a people whom dire necessity guided along the paths of thrift. Yet Malta possesses its art treasures too, because for the leading aristocratic houses of Europe, money was an object. The names and the work of men like Michelangelo, Merisi de Caravaggio, Mattia Preti and Antoine de Favray are there to prove it. Valletta's newly-opened National Museum of Fine Arts, in what throughout the British connexion was Admiralty House, displays the island's range of artistic treasures.

The attainment of independence 10 years ago proved to be a psychological shot in the arm for Malta's artists. Before they had plodded along, all initiative and enthusiasm stemming from

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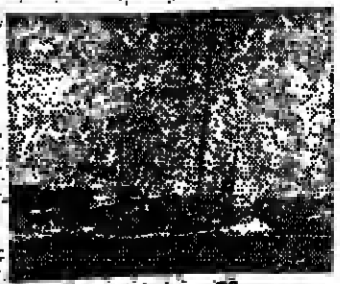
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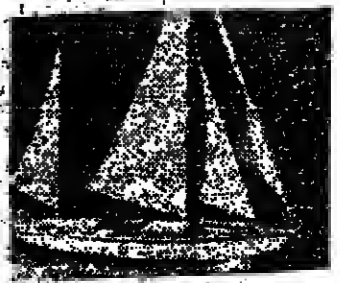
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Nicholson 38



Felice Serena

Conference centre role is firmly established

There is no doubt that Malta has already established itself as an international conference centre. Proof of this lies in the fact that so many organizations which have held conferences on the island return there time and again. Malta's tourist trade continues to enjoy a boom, notwithstanding the crisis that has hit the international tourist market. There are several reasons for this seeming paradox in a world undergoing an economic upheaval and a fuel crisis. Not least among them is the inauguration of Air Malta this year which has meant an unprecedented advance in

air communication, with a doubling of flights on the Paris route and a direct link with Frankfurt.

As might be expected, Malta being a seaside resort, the flood reaches its highest annual conferences overseas and have provided themselves, according to international standards, with the latest audio-visual equipment and simultaneous translation system. First to open its doors to conference holders was the Corinthia Palace Hotel in 1969, and nearly 100 conferences have now been held there. They have included Pacem in Maribus, organized by the United Nations, an

warmest in the Mediterranean, with a minimum 52 hours of sunshine in December-January. First-class hotels have been quick to take advantage of the growing custom of holding annual conferences overseas and have provided themselves, according to international standards, with the latest audio-visual equipment and simultaneous translation system. First to open its doors to conference holders was the Corinthia Palace Hotel in 1969, and nearly 100 conferences have now been held there. They have included Pacem in Maribus, organized by the United Nations, an

ophthalmologists, Falstaff Silver Plating, and the British Hardware Federation. The Corinthia is in a garden area and across the road from the seventeenth-century palace of the Governor-General. Perched on the Rabat heights, not far from the former capital Mdina, is the most recent development, the Grand Hotel Verdala, which combines luxury with efficiency and has a soft spot for "wife-accompanied" conferences. The Italian Doctors' Federation and Daikin Air Conditioning are among the institutions that have held conferences there.

continued on facing page

Englishness' attracts as well as weather, sand and sea

For most people the first holiday attractions of Malta are its superb weather and sea. Malta has 11 sandy beaches, generally away from the more densely populated areas.

For some the Englishness of the place rates highly. English food is obtainable in many hotels, and English newspapers are available on the day of publication.

Most hotels now include the Maltese dishes on their menus. You may be offered *appo tal-arnia* (wild rabbit) made with chopped green vegetables, *gajna* (a local cheese), served with a poached cod, *cooked* (a local fish), *fish* (a local fish), *steaks*, *chocolate*, *orange peel*, *sugar*, *cinnamon*. Another

Clarksons, Enterprise Holidays and Sovereign Holidays. Thomson Holidays have their own hotel, the Mellicha Bay, in a fairly remote spot in the north, where a fortnight costs from £85. They are also one of the few operators to advertise the Malta Hilton.

Three operators make a great speciality of Malta and between them offer a wide selection of holidays. These are Malatours, Exchange Travel and Cadogan Travel.

Many of the hotels they offer are in Siema, a pleasant residential area by the sea close to Valletta. Although there is no beach and swimming in the sea is from the rocky shore, a number of hotels have their own pools, and it is one of the freer areas in Malta. Siema is also one of the most budget-conscious areas. Prices may be as low as £63 for a fortnight at the Belmont Hotel for half board.

One hotel which appears in most brochures is the luxury grade Phoenixia. If

where I enjoy the unhurried, unspoiled rural calm of this much less densely populated island. The Ta'Genc is an exceptionally good, small hotel built imaginatively in the form of low, stone chalets round a pool and standing in a large, if rather barren, grounds. There is little entertainment, although the hotel has covered an old mill into a night club. The cuisine is good, and the beach about 10 minutes' walk. One or two operators offer two-week holidays there with half board for a little over £100.

Many people prefer their own catering, and a variety of holiday apartments can be rented. Il Miħna L-Qadima, which has an office in London, began operations with an eighteenth-century millhouse in Gozo. It proved so popular as a holiday resort that many more houses have been let.

Owners' Services are specialists in holiday accommodation and offer a wide choice in Mellicha, St Paul's Bay, St George's Bay, Mar-

saskala and Gozo from £48 for two weeks, including return air travel and subsidiary services such as a maid and initial grocery hamper.

Two comprehensive developments offer wider flexibility in arrangements. Alistra Village, overlooking St Paul's Bay, offers self-catering accommodation in villas with many of the facilities of a hotel. It contains a clubhouse, bar, night club, restaurant and boutique. There are also a swimming pool, self-service store and launderette. Prices start at £57 for two weeks, and inquiries may be made through Malatours or Exchange Travel.

At the opposite end of the island lies the Ta' Mienha development at Marsa Scala, a quiet fishing village. An attractive complex of flats, suites and villas is built round a swimming pool, bar and terrace. Prices from £55 for two weeks, and inquiries should be made to Charles Travel, of Sotihull, Warwickshire.

G.W.

British welcome as residents—but speculators can expect icy reception

new system of residence permits came into operation November 14, 1972, which drastically reduced the number of new British immigrants in Malta.

In the days of the "6d" (when income tax was more than six old pence in the pound), there was a steady flow of about a week. Less than that number has arrived ever since the new law was enacted.

The British population, divided into about 3,250, has remained in Malta since 1972. Foreign residents are not allowed to engage in any profession or business or be part in political activities. In addition, they must own a property within 12

months or take a lease for at least 16 years. Under British exchange control regulations only one property can be bought by a British resident in Malta. This means one for each family.

Although the present cost of properties is low compared with Britain, the transaction is a steady flow of about a week. Less than that number has arrived ever since the new law was enacted.

No premium is payable if the purchase is transacted between two negotiators in England, provided it was bought before June 23, 1972, for residence rather than investment, although if resold in Malta it would then be difficult to withdraw the money from Malta.

If a British resident decides to relinquish his residence status and return to England, again no premium is payable on the sale of his Maltese property.

Properties are not freehold, but ground rents are modest. The Bahar Real Estate offers two-bedroom flats in Siema, each with a living room, kitchen, bathroom and double garage for £42,200. Additions include marble stairs, a lift and use of a communal swimming pool.

The same agents are offering a detached villa in St Julians for £57,500. Accommodation comprises three bedrooms, two bathrooms, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, cloakroom, garage and garden with patio.

£110,000, payable in sterling, will buy a detached hangar in Mellicha, comprising three bedrooms, bathroom, shower-room, one reception room, hall, garage, garden and sun terraces.

At the top end of the scale, a detached villa in San Pawl Targu is a more spacious garden with a filtered swimming pool and double garage is offered for £23,000. It contains four bedrooms, two bathrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen, study, store room and separate cloakroom and laundry room.

Prices in Gozo are roughly two thirds of those in Malta. A five-room farmhouse with planning permission for conversion and alteration is available at £42,500 overlooking Mendi Valley on the outskirts of Kerem.

A chance to live near the Governor-General's palace in Attard is afforded by an old house on three floors with a hall leading to a courtyard and walled garden planted with orange trees. It has two reception rooms, three bedrooms, each with its bathroom, or shower-room, and two rooms. The price is £110,600.

One of the most attractive properties is a seventeenth-century palazzo with fine views in grounds of two acres near Marsaxlokk. It has six bedrooms, five recep-

tion rooms and many other facilities offered for £145,000. All three properties are being sold by Melita Properties.

Comprehensive developments are under way in both Malta and Gozo. The San Tomaso estate, named after a seventeenth-century tower on its edge, lies on a site of 40 acres at Marsa Scala. It is designed to high standards by Richard Eganland, a Maltese architect with an international reputation.

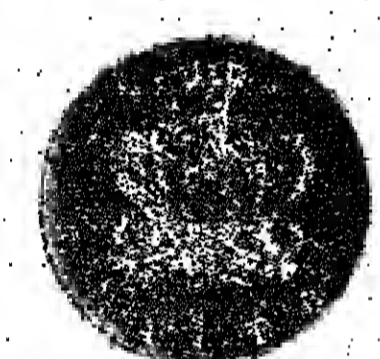
Included in the plans are a shopping precinct and a medium-size hotel. Two and three-bedroom flats each with a veranda are offered from £44,000. The British agents are Tuffnell & Partners (International), 59 High Street, Ascot, Berkshire.

The same architect has designed a series of flats in star-shaped blocks at Bahar

G.W.

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1974 ISSUE



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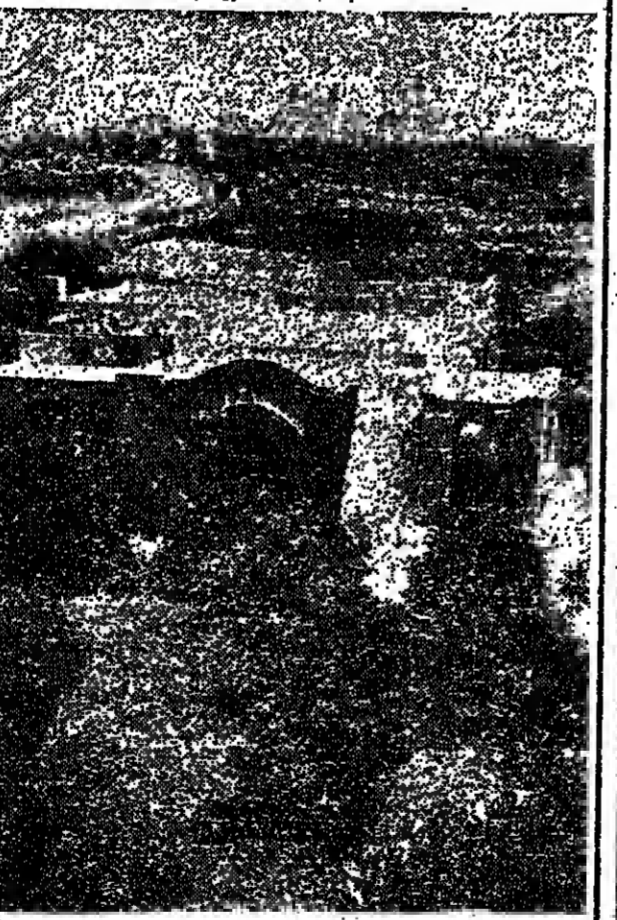
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It is as well to bear in mind that the floating pound can cause particular discomfort to those living on fixed incomes paid from Britain. On my visit early this month the pound sterling was worth 87c.

We might well look with some envy at the degree of government control over property and its development. Basically, the British are welcome to go and live in Malta, but any attempt to make money or above all exploit the Maltese is stamped upon. The spectre of the pervasive British property developer is kept firmly out.

Although house plots tend to be small, nearly all buildings are constructed of local limestone, a beautiful honey-coloured material which is soft to work but conveniently hardens after exposure to the atmosphere. Malta does not therefore suffer from the aggressively aspic appearance associated with so many modern developments.



A newly-completed villa—part of a planned complex of 300 in Gozo—features the typical Maltese flat roof.

Conference centre role is firmly established

continued from facing page

Near the sea are Malta's Hilton, patronized by Ford, Topperware, Singer and Kreskone Powermatic among others; The Dragonara, with its adjacent casino, which has played host to Diamond Rio, Union Carbide of Geneva and the Europe Audit Conference; and the Prekuna, in the fashionable night-club area, where Pve from Britain and Elekopolus from Sweden are among those which have held conferences.

Finally, Forte's Hotel Phoenixia, situated on the bastions just outside Valletta, has the most spacious banquet hall of all, used by many holding their conferences elsewhere. Gozo, too, has thrown open its Ta' Genc hotel to conference holders who really like something on the quiet side.

One attraction is the fact that so much "extra-curricular" activity is possible in between sessions. All that Malta has to offer in terms of its unique historical heritage, particularly the 270 glorious years when the Knights of St John held sway over the island, is within easy reach. A short drive takes one past majestic palaces and towering churches, through quaint villages and to breathtaking vistas, or down to the coast, to sandy or rocky beaches.

Delegates can experience the hospitality of the Maltese and learn their customs—ranging from the sombre devotions of Holy Week to the riotous gaiety of carnival. What for centuries has been a forbidding fortress is now the most welcoming haven in the Mediterranean.



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ENTERTAINMENTS

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OPERA AND BALLE... COVENT GARDEN, 24th July, The Royal Opera...

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLE... The London Festival Ballet...

CONCERTS... 27th ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL...

THEATRES... ACT ONE, 7.30, 9.00...

TRAVESTIES... By Tom Stoppard...

CINEMAS... ABC 1 & 2, 21, 22...

THEATRES... ALBERTS, 8.15, 10.15...

OPERA AND BALLE... OPERA HOUSE, 28th...

CONCERTS... 27th ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL...

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CONCERTS... 27th ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL...

THEATRES... ALBERTS, 8.15, 10.15...

EXHIBITIONS

DORNING ANTIQUES FAIR... 1st to 3rd July...

ART EXHIBITIONS... ALAN JACOBS GALLERY...

ACORIS... The Survival Art Centre...

ALAN JACOBS GALLERY... Spring exhibition...

COLNAGHI'S... Old Master Paintings...

FRANCES OF PICCADILLY LTD... 24th July to 1st Aug...

HUGH MICKLEM... 24th July to 1st Aug...

LASSON GALLERY... 24th July to 1st Aug...

LE TROUBADOUR DES AUTRES... 24th July to 1st Aug...

OSCAR & PETER JOHNSON... 24th July to 1st Aug...

PETER DE WINT'S... 24th July to 1st Aug...

RICHARD GREEN GALLERY... 24th July to 1st Aug...

SEPPENTINE GALLERY... 24th July to 1st Aug...

STOOSHOFF FINE ART... 24th July to 1st Aug...

TOOTH: DANIEL LANG AND FRANK... 24th July to 1st Aug...

WINDING GALLERY... 24th July to 1st Aug...

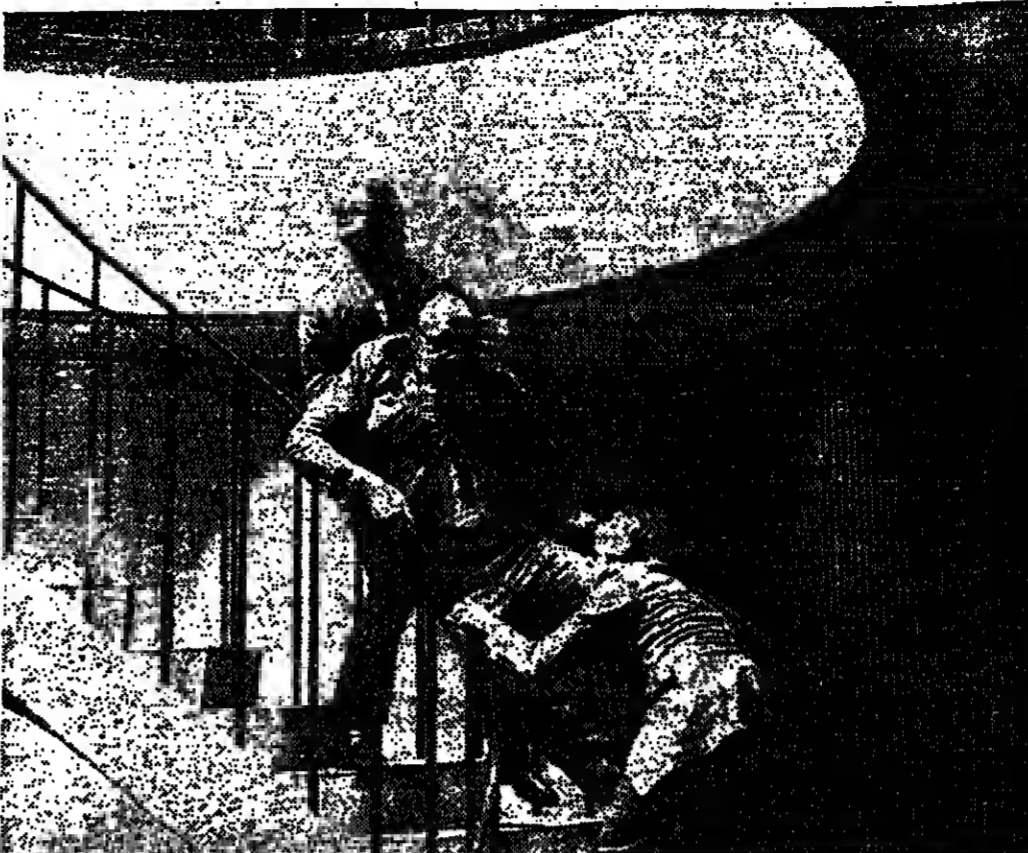
THE ARTS

Needles in the haystack

"The films must have been better to those old days..."

The sheer size of Cannes is nowadays appalling. This vast number of films is made up of the 26 films in competition...

Anyone trying to predict the fashion future from this great Spring Collection would have been hard put to it this year.



Grand Prix winner at Cannes: The Conversation

1939-40: It is all cutely framed as a series of flashbacks from the realer past...

The Italian competitors showed the older and middle generation in a state of artistic impasse...

Anyone trying to predict the fashion future from this great Spring Collection would have been hard put to it this year.

David Robison

Once mindless pets affectionately known by the Parisians as their "Veggies"...

These were other rewards, and out of the festival, to encourage the hope that neither the cinema nor Cannes is quite yet on its last legs...

The inhabitants of this twentieth-century paragon, forcing stray tourists to crash their cars and then pouncing like locusts to strip the vehicles of any value...

Holmes does not restrict himself to two or three concertos a year. "I like, and feel I need, the contrast of a varied repertoire..."

"Then the repertoire is so smashing, works like the Schubert B flat, the Brahms C minor, the Beethoven Ghost, and the Ravel. Wa did-bang, bang, bang..."

The daring of the solo violinist

"Here we are associated with all these masterpieces, and every time we go out on that platform, we have to dare..."

Holmes does not restrict himself to two or three concertos a year. "I like, and feel I need, the contrast of a varied repertoire..."

"Then the repertoire is so smashing, works like the Schubert B flat, the Brahms C minor, the Beethoven Ghost, and the Ravel. Wa did-bang, bang, bang..."

"Another new venture for him is directing from the violin. Next month I'm doing several programmes with the London Mozart Players..."

He still practises diligently. "But I'm finding that it's a method of study is changing. It's less now like charging straight at it..."

Alan Blyth

NPO/Frühbeck de Burgos Festival Hall

Stephen Walsh

One of Ernest Newman's wilder pipe-dreams was that criticism of musical performance might one day be placed on some scientific basis...

On Sunday Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos conducted Dvorak's G major symphony. It was well played by the New Philharmonia...

This is a tiresome subject, but crucial. The first movement of Dvorak's slow concerto in B minor was played by the orchestra at full stretch...

RICHARD GREEN GALLERY

SEPPENTINE GALLERY

STOOSHOFF FINE ART

TOOTH: DANIEL LANG AND FRANK BEAUMONT

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ECO/Barenboim Festival Hall

Stopping off in London between a successful tour of the Continent and assignments in Aldeburgh, the English Chamber Orchestra gave a programme of Bach and Schubert on Sunday afternoon under Daniel Barenboim...

ART EXHIBITIONS

STOOSHOFF FINE ART

Mauricio Kagel

how he was "abusing" Beethoven, whatever that may mean. Of the live works, the most "purely" musical was Schlag auf Schlag...

Paul Griffiths

It is a pity that Mauricio Kagel, the Argentine-German composer, visits Britain so seldom with his Cologne New Music Ensemble...

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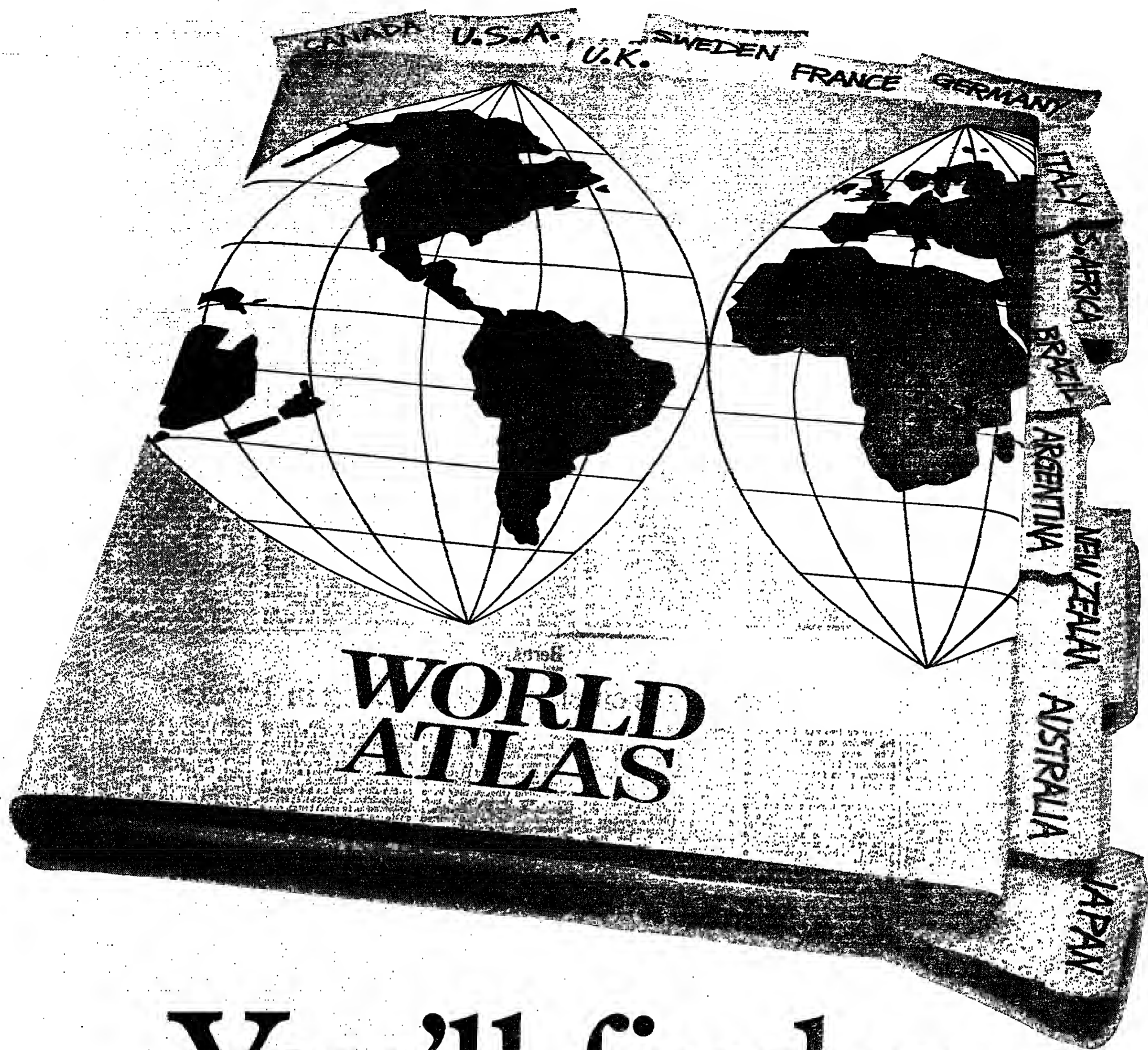
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You'll find us in the book.

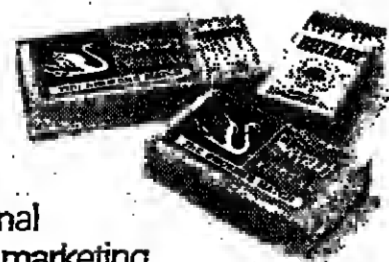
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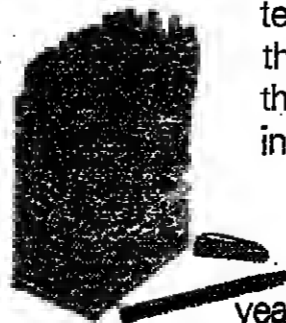
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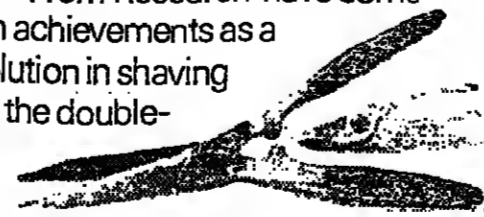


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THE BRINK

Mainstream of paramount importance that the political strike in Northern Ireland has been defeated for three reasons...

The Government's chances of defeating the challenge have not been improved by the appearance of irresolution on the part of Ministers and by Mr Wilson's lamentable broadcast on Saturday night.

The resulting hardship, risk to health and safety, loss of livelihood, cessation of economic activity, fracture of the structures supporting society, these will have to be tolerated to a point which goes well beyond the present disruption.

TIME MINISTER OF FRANCE

name of M Jacques Chirac, President Giscard d'Estaing chosen as his first prime minister, is hardly a surprising ear...

they had a little too quick to acclaim M Giscard d'Estaing as a "good European"?

Pompidou's closest advisers—M Pierre Juillet and Mme Marie-France Garaud—spread the word that the candidature, announced with "indecent haste", of the prime minister whom M Pompidou had dismissed, was to be regarded as both an affront to the memory of the deceased and a political mistake.

Repair problem for London flats

From Mr Muir Hunter, QC
Sir, On December 28 last you printed a letter from me drawing attention to the probable impact of the liquidity crisis in the secondary banks on the property world...

The strike in Northern Ireland

From Professor M. M. Barbour
Sir, As an Englishman recently settled in Northern Ireland and working at the New University in Coleraine I find myself astonished and ashamed at the reactions of the British Government...

Sale of church treasures

From Mr W. E. Ames Lewis
Sir, The President of the Society of Antiquaries and the other signatories of the letter which you printed yesterday (May 21) have disregarded the local interest in treasures in local churches...

The troubles besetting society

From Mr Robert Elliott
Sir, In his letter to you Mr Jo Grimond (May 20) does well to draw attention to the two examples of corruption in our society...

Christians in E Europe

From the Reverend Hugh Wilcox
Sir, Archbishop Pawley's criticisms of the British Council of Churches (report, May 14), though reflecting a fashionable view, do not accord with the facts.

Panovs and Bolshoi visit

From Miss Pat Gerrard and others
Sir, Remarks made by Valery Panov to members of our company were misunderstood in the report of the press conference of the Prospect Theatre Company on May 22...

ED FOR A LOCAL INSPECTORATE

ter on this page yesterday Stephen Haseler, chairman of general purposes committee of Greater London Council, edged the proposal for a government inspectorate but said that it should not be central government's concern.

where central government best managed to provide an inspectorate without compromising local autonomy.

The best way of providing this opportunity would be to implement the Malloy Committee proposal of 1967 that mobility of officers between local authorities and the other branches of the public sector should be encouraged.

Young offenders

From Mr A. Liddell Hart
Sir, In his appraisal of the Report on Young Offenders by the Advisory Council on the Penal System (article May 23), Andrew Rutherford castigates the prison building programme as likely to make Britain a showpiece of social anachronism and obsolescence.

Detained in Greece

From the Reverend Peter Levi
Sir, The Greek secret police have just won another feather for their caps by arresting Mrs Athena Kallianesi, an elderly lady who is one of the most distinguished publishers in Greece.

Indian nuclear explosion

From Mr Dan Smith
Sir, The entry of India into the "nuclear club" must raise the greatest fears for the efficacy of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Religious Church music

fr James Goldsbury
What's wrong with Roman Catholic church music? asks Colin Mawby Times (May 18). The answer, is largely a matter of history.

tings of the Latin Mass in the way of Mozart and Beethoven, as with architecture, founded on certain forms with some enthusiastic Oxford converts, etc.

Catholic Church music is manifested by the discontinuance of the Tridentine Mass and its Latin musical setting in the age old devotional art form. Even if the requisite finance was available, and like sensible Anglican incumbents, the musical side was left to the direction of people with the required discipline, choirmasters, rectors, chori, or whatever, the complication of fitting the appropriate music to the Novus Ordo Missae appears formidable.

Competitive backgammon

From Mr Stephen Raphael
Sir, In its annual report the Gaming Board has singled out the growing popularity of backgammon as an ominous sign on the gaming horizon.

Tinnors' Parliament

From Professor O. Hood Phillips, QC
Sir, Professor Penington in his letter (May 23) rightly commends the China clay workers of Cornwall for attempting to express their disagreement with Parliament's anti-inflation legislation within a legal framework.

Indian nuclear explosion

which United States and USSR are engaged—is confined to strategic nuclear weapons, and the first SALT treaty did nothing to halt or reverse technological improvements by either side.

Vertical text on the right margin containing publication details and other small text.

SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen will open the new headquarters of Edinburgh City Police on July 2.

Birthdays today

Most Rev. V. Beck, 70: Mr. Edward du Cam, MP, 50: Earl Fitzwilliam, 70: Sir Leslie Glass, 63: Mr. George Isaacs, 91: Lord Mackintosh, 86: Mr. Andrew MacLara, 91: Sir Leslie Mansel, 62: Professor Stuart Pigott, 64: Dame Mary Rafter, 63: Mr. Geoffrey Rippon, QC, MP, 50: Sir Robil Rowell, 80: Mr. Basil Slade, 44: Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, 91.

Dinner

Lady Ballantrac The Lord High Commissioner and Lady Ballantrac gave a dinner last night at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

University news

Oxford Oriel College, 145 years of its foundation, will be celebrated on June 10th by the college.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. J. Pratt and Miss M. J. Hubbard The engagement is announced between Roger, eldest son of Mr and Mrs M. V. Pratt, of Badwell Ash, Bury St Edmunds, and Mary, eldest daughter of Lieutenant-Commander and the Hon Mrs Hubbard, of Moreton Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

Mr E. H. Arkell and Mrs V. A. Pither The engagement is announced between Edward, youngest son of Mr and Mrs E. H. Arkell, of Hertfordshire, and Vera, youngest daughter of Mrs V. A. Pither, of West Wittering, Sussex, widow of Captain P. J. Pither.

Mr N. S. Christie and Miss C. R. E. Mackenzie The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of the late Mr Ronald Christie, OBE, and of Mrs Christie, of 18 St Michael Drive, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire, and Cathrina, daughter of Captain Robert B. Mackenzie, MVO, MBE, RN, and Mrs Rowena Mackenzie, of Meadow Lodge, Swarraton, near Aylesford, Hampshire.

Mr D. J. Farran and Miss C. Leonard The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr and Mrs D. J. Farran, of Plymouth, Devon, and Christine, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Leonard, of Hill Hill, London, N.W.7.

Mr B. Houlter and Miss S. Mattinson The engagement is announced between Mr Bruce Houlter, eldest son of Mr and Mrs B. Houlter, of Hinton, Essex, and Stella, daughter of Dr and Mrs M. Mattinson, of Swindon, Wiltshire.

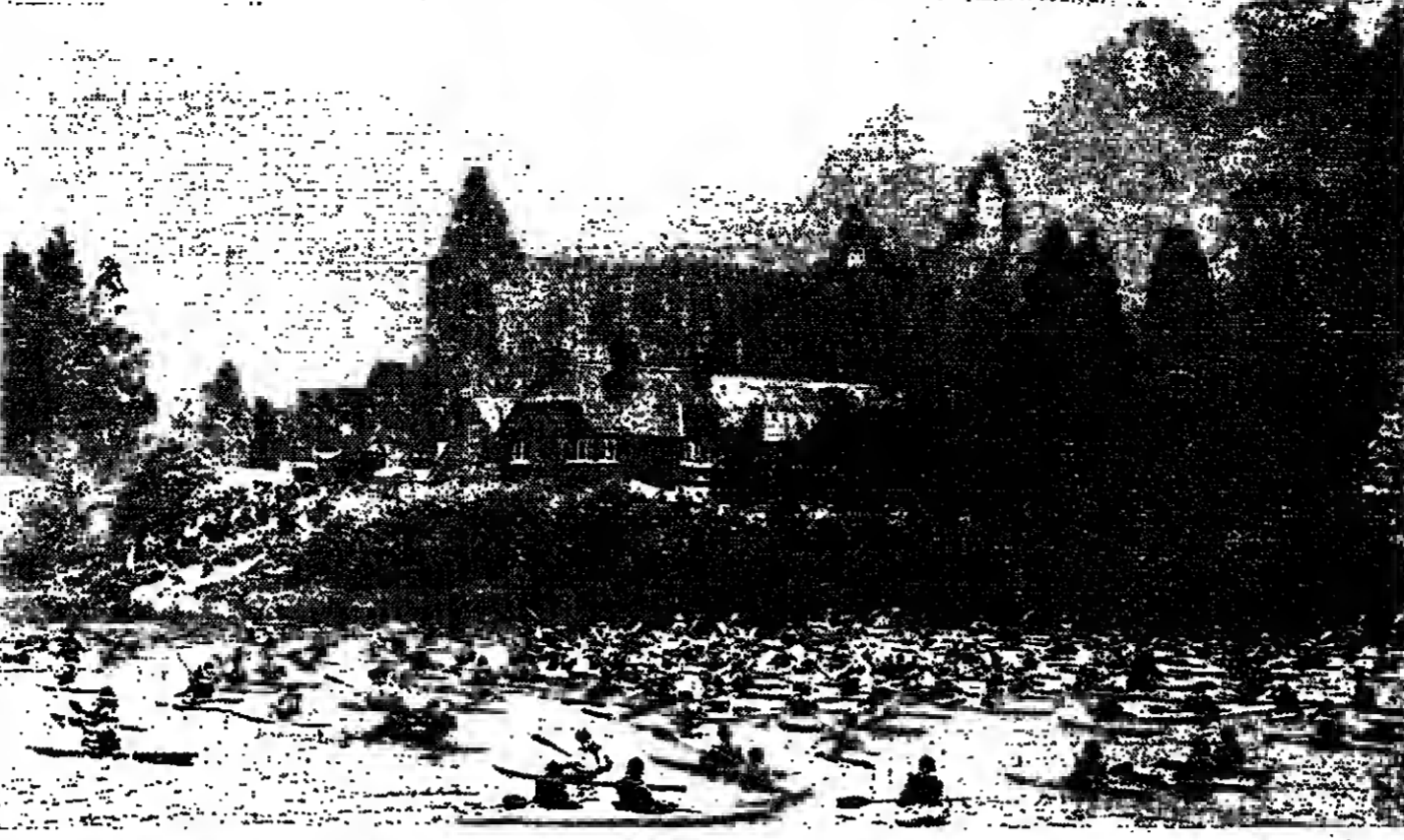
Mr H. J. H. Pearson and Miss J. A. Bird The engagement is announced between Hugh John Hampden, son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Pearson, of Bramley, Surrey, and Jacqueline Anne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Harold Bird, of Goring-by-Sea, Sussex.

Today's engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh attends the Royal Television Society's annual ball, the Dorchester hotel, 7-85, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother attends the festival service of the Friends of St. Paul's, St Paul's Cathedral, 5.25.

Caroline Kennedy to work in uncle's office

Washington, May 27.—Caroline Kennedy, aged 16, daughter of the late President Kennedy will be employed for three weeks during the summer as an assistant in the office of Senator Edward Kennedy.



An armada of young canoeists arriving yesterday at Tintern Abbey, Monmouthshire, at the end of a 100-mile endurance test down the Wye. Three hundred members of British boys' clubs took part in the test, which is an annual event sponsored by their national association.

New council office block divides a town

The bear which has for so long been attached to the ragged staff of Warwickshire's emblem has never seemed the happiest of bears. It may be imagination, but those which are in evidence in and around the county town appear to be even more dejected these days.

Regional report Arthur Osman Warwick

For the wider charge that "Warwick is being torn apart at its seams and conservation area" are words that have become a hollow joke in the town.

One reason why so many people were unaware of the project before it actually happened was that the planning application was made in late July and comments had to be submitted by August.



Table with flight schedules for SAS Trans-Asian Express, SAS Trans-Orient Route, SAS Trans-Polar Route, and Thai Royal Orchid Express. Columns include day, route, and destinations.

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OBITUARY

MR STEWART ALSOP American political columnist

Mr Stewart Alsop, who died in a Washington hospital on Sunday at the age of 60, was one of the nabobs of American journalism. He was a Washington political columnist whose column was published in scores of newspapers for many years.

MR DONALD CRISP

Donald Crisp, who directed and appeared in more than 100 silent films before devoting all his time to acting in the cinema, has died in Los Angeles at the age of 91.

SIR JOHN TAYLOR

Sir John Taylor, KBE, CVO, who was British Ambassador to Mexico from 1950 to 1954, on Saturday at the age of 81.

Miles, Mestel share first prize in chess

By Harry Golombek Chess Correspondent First prize in the open chess championship at Dover yesterday was shared by two of the most talented younger players in the country, Tony Miles and Jonathan Mestel.

High standard at Derby show

Judges of the Derbyshire County Show, being held at Elston Castle, near Derby, said yesterday that the standard of entries was the best for many years.

Americans meet Italians in world bridge final

From A Bridge Correspondent Voice, May 27 The world bridge championship has come to what many expected as an inevitable final—some more confrontation between Italy and North America.

Science report

Zoology: Ladybirds change their spots

Every schoolboy is familiar with the idea of industrial melanism shown by the peppered moth, held up as a textbook example of evolution and natural selection in action.

Designs sought for college

Invitations to submit ideas for the building of Cambridge's new college in Hertford Road have been sent to 10 architects.

Advertisement for Gieves the Lower Deck London, featuring a hat and the text 'Today's Top People wear them...'

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page with stylized text including 'MA', 'S by S', 'on f', 'change', 'put a', 'chief', 'to ai', 'est', 'loan', 'eria', 'king ga'.



Loss by Swiss bank on foreign exchange market now put at £62m

Stephen Wilkins... The bank is widely believed to have speculated wrongfully...

single client, as claimed by UBS... The scale of speculation by continental banks has caused considerable concern...

Other banks have admitted heavy foreign exchange losses... Landesbank Girozentrale of Germany, which lost DM270m...

foreign exchange market questions whether such scale losses could have occurred on behalf of a

Big rise in foreign investments by Japan

From Peter Hazelhurst, Tokyo, May 27... Japan has emerged as one of the world's four leading powers in overseas investments...

According to statistics compiled at the close of the past fiscal year, Japan's direct overseas investments were \$10,000m (nearly £4,170m), which puts Japanese investments on a par with those of West Germany and third behind the United States and the United Kingdom...

In many respects overseas investments have been prompted by a rise in the cost of raw materials, difficulties in securing industrial sites and the lack of domestic supply of raw materials...



Mr Christopher Selmes: £21m taker of Grenon Trust.

Grenon 'in trouble before bid'

By Margaret Drummond

Following last year's takeover of the Grenon Trust, the property and industrial group, by Mr Christopher Selmes an interim report to loan stockholders shows that the group experienced a serious financial collapse immediately before the bid...

Fenchurch in legal action over bid letter

By Ian Morison, Financial Correspondent... The hoardroom split at Fenchurch Insurance, which is under a takeover bid from its controlling shareholder, Guinness...

At a court hearing this morning, they are expected to ask to examine a letter prepared by the remaining directors, advocating rejection of the bid, before it is sent to shareholders...

The four directors include Mr Harry Kissin, shortly to become Lord Kissin—who is both chairman of Fenchurch and joint chairman of Guinness. The remaining seven directors are headed by Mr John Donner, Fenchurch's managing director...

Although the history of contested takeover bids is long and bitter, it is still unusual for one side to turn to the courts in its attempt to block the takeover of the other—and even more unusual for supporters of the bid to claim the right to examine the case for the defence before it is published...

But in this case the four Guinness directors on the Fenchurch board clearly feel they are entitled to study the arguments being put out in the forecast and other assumptions on which these arguments have been based...

Guinness, which made its all-share offer on April 8, already owned 54 per cent of the voting shares and 23 per cent of the non-voters—41 per cent of the total shares...

Egypt signs trade pact with Iran

From Our Own Correspondent, Tehran, May 27... Iran and Egypt today signed a protocol worth \$1,000m (£416m) to expand economic and trade cooperation between the two countries...

The two countries also agreed to develop various industrial plants, including an ammonia plant with an annual capacity of 40,000 tons using Egyptian natural gas and chemical fertilizer plant will be set up...

Cairo: Iran's decision to invest in Egypt reflects a big improvement in relations between the two countries... It is the largest deal yet concluded in the post-October drive to unleash the Egyptian economy with the aid of foreign capital...

W Germany uses Lombard facility again

Frankfurt, May 27—The Bundesbank said it will reintroduce its special Lombard rediscounting facility at 10 per cent until further notice from tomorrow. Use of the facility should help German banks to overcome current liquidity shortages...

AGIP hopes high for N Sea stake

Rome, May 27—AGIP SpA, Italy's national oil company, which it has a stake of about 18 per cent confirmed the importance of the Maureen oil deposit located about 250 kilometres north-east of Aberdeen... AGIP hopes to acquire the deposit...

Indexing gains favour in US fight with inflation

Blackburn and most notably by Mr Milton Friedman, the Chicago economist... Mr Friedman really started the new drive here for indexing on returning from a visit to Brazil. He seemingly managed to convert a great deal of people with a series of articles on indexing, beginning in Newsweek on January 21...

EEC to press ahead with regulations to veto takeover bids

From David Cross, Brussels, May 27... The European Commission is to press ahead with its controversial plans to veto mergers in the area of the opposition they have aroused in Britain and other parts of the Community...

This determination emerges clearly from the Commission's annual report on anti-trust policy within the Community published in Brussels today... The report says bluntly: "The Commission is convinced that the process which has been set in train will produce balanced legal rules which will help to maintain effective competition in the general interest of the Community..."

Community tries again to settle trade dispute

From Roger Berthoud, Brussels, May 27... The delicate problem of how to compensate the United States and other signatories of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade for the enlargement of the European Economic Community may have to be resolved at ministerial level...

The permanent representatives of the Nine in Brussels will be trying yet again to thrash out an agreement on trade concessions tomorrow... Their last attempt broke up in failure at midnight last Thursday...

It is thought likely that the foreign ministers of the Nine will have to take the final painful decision when they meet—basically to bear Britain's negotiation demands—in Luxembourg on June 4...

American patience may wear thin before then. The deadline for retaliatory trade measures is now August 31... A month ago Washington officials stepped up pressure by leaking a list of European exports like wine, whiskey and refrigerators which might be subject to higher tariffs if acceptable compensation were not forthcoming...

Under a Gatt article, contracting parties are entitled to compensation for export losses caused by the formation or enlargement of a customs union involving signatories...

UK finance for Brazil

Britain is to finance the supply and equipping of three prefabricated hospitals in Brazil. The total cost of the project will be £2.3m and the British contribution will be about £2.1m... This will be the first project financed under the £10m loan agreement which was signed with Brazil in November last year...

Meat drivers strike

Representatives of the Transport and General Workers' Union and leaders of 120 refrigerated meat lorry drivers are to meet in Liverpool today in an effort to settle an unofficial strike now in its third week... This is a holding up supplies of imported meat, particularly mutton, to various cold stores throughout the country...

Steel problems under discussion

Tokyo, May 27—Japan and the European Coal and Steel Community opened a two-day biannual governmental meeting here to discuss problems regarding the steel industries... Steel supplies of steel-making materials, including soaring coal prices, and pollution problems including technological development preventative devices, are the main topics at the talks, the foreign ministry said.

BTA closes two offices abroad to cut losses

By Patricia Tisdall... A £250,000 reduction in this year's grant from the Government has forced the British Tourist Authority to close its overseas offices in Vancouver and Melbourne... The authority's controversial programme overseas may also have to be curtailed because of shortage of funds...

The cutbacks come at a time of falling tourist traffic, particularly from the United States, where there has been a reduction of about 17 per cent in the number of Americans visiting Britain...

The new allocation to the BTA by the Government brings its grant revenue to £5.25m although it can petition for extra funds for specific projects, such as advertising or transport schemes... The authority is relying to an increasing extent on contributions from industry to promote Britain as a holiday destination...

The overseas office closures were predicted a month ago by Sir Alexander Glen, BTA chairman, when he said that rising costs mean that without commercial support, there would be no advertising of some countries which it might be necessary to close some BTA offices...

33 pc drop in building activity

Building activity in March was 33.2 per cent down on the level for March 1973, according to the latest monthly statistics published today by the National Federation of Builders and Plumbers Merchants... The NFPM survey, which indicates merchants' deliveries shows that for the three months ending in March 1974 activity was down 19.9 per cent on the previous year... For the second month in succession all the regions showed decreases in the monthly and cumulative figures...

Mr Reg Williams, director of the NFPM, said that the figures for March reflected the continuing downward turn in building activity... "One can only hope that the slightly better picture now beginning to emerge from building statistics, including soaring coal prices, and pollution problems including technological development preventative devices, are the main topics at the talks, the foreign ministry said.

JC chief backs call for state agency to aid Co-op expansion

Price Corina... The agency would demonstrate for all time that co-operative principles had the support of the government...

An indication that the Co-op has pressing problems of financing its present barga reductions programme is the fact that a high level committee had decided to raise new capital with a customer savings stamp scheme, and a life assurance-linked national unit loan plan...

Co-op funds have fallen sharply in the past decade as holdings of the 11 million members in traditional share accounts have been switched to other forms of saving, including building societies... The Co-op's retail trade last year according to figures given from the platform by Mr Lloyd Harrison the CWS chairman was up by around 12 per cent, one of the best results for years...

of a property investment company, a new building society, and use of City money... Meanwhile he urged retail co-operatives to plough back more of their profits into development. Existing share and loan capital had gone up slightly in 1973 and retentions of profit were at an all time high...

Mr Duncan McNab, chief executive of the Big London Society, who has been leading the special resources committee, told the delegates that a saving stamp was ready for implementation in the autumn... Details would be given shortly...

There was an urgency for widening the store modernization to retain and then improve the Co-op's share of retail trade... A unit loan scheme to attract longer-term money had been completed, but at present rates of interest it is not being actively marketed until the right rates are introduced...

Co-op fights complacency... The Co-op's retail trade last year according to figures given from the platform by Mr Lloyd Harrison the CWS chairman was up by around 12 per cent, one of the best results for years...

However, this is still not a sufficient volume gain for Co-op retailers who all follow a similar pattern for inflation... Consequently, the central executive has prepared a new national plan for regional amalgamation of societies...

Co-op fights complacency, page 19

West m loan Algeria

Westminster Bank... Société Nationale de Développement Agricole de l'Algérie state authority to provide a contract to W. S. Atkins and the consulting engineering firm, Surrey...

the next phase of trade reorganization in association with the Co-operative Wholesale Society, their central banker and chief supplier of goods... The Co-op's retail trade last year according to figures given from the platform by Mr Lloyd Harrison the CWS chairman was up by around 12 per cent, one of the best results for years...

AGIP hopes high for N Sea stake

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LONDON TRUST COMPANY LIMITED
The following is the circulated review of the Chairman The Hon. Edward D. G. Davies.
This is the first occasion on which I have had the privilege of addressing shareholders as Chairman. It is fitting, therefore, that I should begin by paying tribute to my predecessor, Mr Robert George de Quervelle, D.S.O., M.C. who was Chairman from 1950 until last year's Annual Meeting. He guided the affairs of this Trust from the early post-war years with great judgment and skill and we all owe him a great debt.

Car groups study prospects in S Korea

By Clifford Webb

Guest Keen & Nettelfolds, Associated Engineering, Automotive Products and Girling are among the large British component manufacturers now studying plans to set up factories in South Korea to supply a fast developing motor industry.

Mr George Turnbull, former managing director of British Leyland, was recently appointed a vice-president and director of Hyundai Motors, a Korean company which plans to build seven manufacturing plants in Ulsan by 1976. The intention is to produce 80,000 cars a year.

Last night Mr Turnbull said: "There is enormous scope in South Korea for British component firms. This is a low-cost economy with a government which is preparing the way for a big consumer boom led by cars."

He said the ideal way to enter Korea was by a joint venture with a local company.

"I am not suggesting that it will be easy," said Mr Turnbull, "senior management will have to be prepared to go to Seoul to follow up the preliminary work of their teams. It will be necessary to guarantee the Korean government that there will also be a substantial export business."

Mr Turnbull has just returned from a five-week visit. He is selling the £20,000 family home in Warwickshire, and moving to Korea in a few months' time. Meanwhile he is supervising the spending of £17m on British machinery to equip the new factories. Barclays Bank is loaning the whole of this sum to Hyundai. The remainder of the £25m total investment is being provided by the French Banque de Suez and Korean sources.

US government worried at lack of confidence in power companies

From Frank Vogel Washington, May 27

The financially troubled Consolidated Edison Company is considering legal action against oil companies, along similar lines to a \$245m (about £100m) action brought by the Long Island Lighting Company on allegations of being over-charged.

The Long Island Lighting Company case charges anti-trust violations and involves an action for \$52m against the New England Petroleum Company in New York State courts and actions for \$186m in Federal courts, against Chevron Oil Trading Company, Amih Oil Corporation, Texaco Incorporated and Texas Overseas Petroleum.

But suits such as these, which could increase in number, are unlikely to help America's electrical power companies get back to full financial health. Serious concern about the industry, sparked off by the difficulties at Consolidated

Edison is now seriously being shown by the Federal government.

Moody's investor service ratings on public utilities has fluctuated greatly in recent months and there have been more downward ratings so far this year than in 1972 and 1973 together.

The Government is worried that the utilities may be unable to finance the capital investments needed in coming years if the United States is to get near the goal of energy self-sufficiency by 1980.

A study just published by the Federal Reserve System shows that at the end of 1973, the ratio of total assets of electric utilities to liabilities was down to 73.3 per cent against 82.8 per cent in 1972 and levels of more than 90 per cent in years before 1966. The present ratio is thought to be well down on the end-1973 figure.

Mr Andrew Brimmer, a governor of the Federal Reserve

Board, said in a speech to the Wharton School Club here that inflation, high interest rates, sharp fuel cost rises, difficulties in pushing rate increases through, delays in approval for investment projects and increasing borrowing problems, have combined to weaken seriously all American electric utilities.

Mr Brimmer noted that about \$8,300m of public utility bonds and notes will mature during the 1974-78 period. Just over \$1,000m is due this year and \$2,500m matures next year.

Mr Brimmer said that more than half of the public utility debt to be refunded during this year and next year carries coupons of less than 4 per cent. The implications of refunding this debt at prevailing rates are quite obvious.

The Government is now seeking to speed up approval procedures for new power station building. It is also encouraging local authorities to speed approvals of rate rises to power companies.

BSC plan to get more scrap proves unsuccessful

By Peter Hill

The British Steel Corporation's recent decision to pay between £3 and £9 per tonne more for scrap to help to make more material available for steel-making appears to have been only marginally successful.

After an initial boost, the increasingly tight scrap situation has not improved.

Production at some of the state steel underpinning plants has had to be cut by up to 30 per cent and the corporation is not optimistic for the near future.

Against the background of a worldwide scrap shortage and doubled prices in the last year, the Sheffield area of the BSC's special steels division is among the hardest hit, since it relies extensively on scrap intensive electric arc furnaces.

The Sheffield area plants need about 42,000 tonnes of scrap weekly to maintain full production, but in recent weeks bought-in supplies have been between 27,000 and 28,000 tonnes, and stocks for the special steels division are down from their traditional 500,000 tonnes level to about 50,000 tonnes.

At the BSC works at Sبتون, Durham, scrap stocks have fallen to about 12,000 tonnes from 30,000 tonnes, and weekly deliveries are running at about 1,000 tonnes below normal.

In an effort to boost scrap supplies, the 3,000 workers at the BSC's Tinsley Park works, Sheffield, have been asked to take part in a salvage campaign and to bring household scrap.

Scrap merchants have accused the BSC of not being willing to pay higher prices, though the BSC counters this by claiming that private sector steelmakers and ironfounders have been prepared to pay higher prices than the BSC to obtain supplies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reasons behind dearer off-peak electricity

From Sir Peter Menzies

Sir, I can well understand your correspondent's dislike of the increases in off-peak electricity tariffs; the area electricity boards regret as much as anyone else the need for these increases.

The reasons for them are, however, perfectly straight forward. During the last year the electricity industry has been faced with massive increases in the cost of the coal and oil it has had to burn to produce electricity. The annual fuel bill has increased from £600m to £1,200m. This increase of £600m has to be recovered. The cost of the coal and oil burned to produce off-peak electricity has increased just as much as the cost of the coal and oil burned to produce electricity on the standard tariffs.

These fuel cost increases have added about 0.3p per unit to the cost of producing electricity. Industrial and domestic consumers are already bearing these increases through the operation of fuel adjustment clauses already in their tariffs. Consistent with the Chancellor's Budget statement, this amount will now be added to the electricity prices in both off-peak and standard tariffs. But because the off-peak tariffs are considerably lower, the increase works

out at a higher percentage than for the standard tariff.

National average figures are as follows (there will be some slight variations among the area boards):

Standard tariffs	Present price	After increase	Percentage increase
Standard tariffs	0.95p	1.25p	32
Off-peak and night tariffs	0.45p	0.75p	67

These figures exclude quarterly fixed charges, which remain unchanged; when the revenue from these charges is included, the overall average increase becomes about 30 per cent.

It should be noted that the differential between the standard and off-peak prices will not disappear, as some of your correspondents believe; it will remain at about 0.5p per unit.

These increases are the direct consequences of the increases which have already taken place in coal and oil prices for which the electricity industry is not responsible.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MENZIES,
Chairman, the Electricity Council,
30 Millbank,
London SW1P 4RD.

Britain's poor gold standard

From Miss Judith Barstow

Sir, Quite rightly the standards (800 and 830) instead of or as second to higher silver standard as our own sterling (925) to be described as silver they are allowed on Britain next year (May 17).

Yet we in Britain pay the entirely inaccurate rate of 9c as "gold", doxically, on the Continent (58.5 per cent pure) in the gold standard allowed, meaning the 18c (75 per cent) that has been here since 1798, and the rarer but siccure 22c (9 cent) standard.

With a mere 9 parts (ie. 37.5 per cent) of the rest being silver and in varying proportions, it is misleading to call 9c name of its most precious constituent when it does not prize as much as half the price as a quick price about the same amount carat measure, so that metal content of a platinum in 14c (not 10c) will be 20 per cent more than in 9c.

Even in these gold-ex days it seems a small getting jewelry made in what it purports to be. Yours faithfully,
JUDITH BARSTOW,
20 Marlborough Gardens, Lovelace Road, Surliton, Surrey.

OECD oil import forecasts fall sharply

Paris, May 27.—Exports of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have been sharply revised downwards from the previous forecasts of oil imports by member countries in 1980.

The new forecast is contained in the still uncompleted energy assessment report of the OECD secretariat to be submitted to the Ministerial Council meeting on Wednesday and Thursday.

It said that if international oil prices remain at or near present levels, the volume of oil imports of the OECD area in 1980 would not exceed that for 1973.

The downward revision is about equally caused by reductions in the growth of energy

consumption, and increases in production of domestic oil and other energy supplies which are used as substitutes for oil imports.

The report noted that the assumptions about the impact of increased energy prices on energy consumption and production in member countries have been consistently conservative, so that the reduction in demand and increase in domestic energy production may be larger than the forecasts suggest.

The report gave a warning, however, that despite the expected shift in the long-term trend, there are a number of areas where policy decisions need to be taken to alleviate short and long-term problems,

and to improve on oil import reductions arising from the operation of market mechanisms.

The long-term energy assessment report expected to be completed before the end of the year suggests actions to reduce considerably members' dependence on imported oil in the context of an overall strategy.

The main areas where policy decisions could make an impact are: energy conservation and demand restraint, more rapid development of indigenous resources, improved energy pricing policies, and research and development.

The report said there is a strong case for giving highest priority to efforts for saving energy.

There can be consolation in not winning an award

There is always a consoling thought for filmmakers who come away from festivals without awards—that festival success is not necessarily a measure of the effectiveness of a film for its intended purpose.

Everyone can cite examples of films that have done sterling work for their sponsors without a glimpse of an award; conversely, some splendidly glossy films have been poor performers in the field. And of course the same can be said, in the more restricted, if more glamorous field of feature films.

Brighton this year marked an attempt by the British Industrial and Scientific Film Association to meet this problem by the introduction into the judging process of "users"—representatives of the types of audience appropriate to the various categories.

It was not easy to nominate such judges, nor was it completely effected, but it was a useful start and worth working on. A sponsored film is for users rather than film folk.

Were the results different from previous years? That is a hard question, at least there seemed to be less criticism of the awards than usual from the assembled film makers, which ought to prove something. Certainly no one quarrelled with the three awards—a gold and two silvers—but went to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds for three excellent films; on any points system the RSPB had a clear lead in the sponsor field.

Then there was *High Frequency Parole* (K&N Film, 13 minutes) a lively exposition on microwaves (on a 60 octave

Industrial films

good movies had their awards. Of course, every individual has his own criticisms of what won and what did not. This individual, for instance, wondered why BP's *Scotland*, a beautiful and imaginative film, failed to get to Brighton; and why *Glaxo Farley's God Bless Hummy and Make Her Good* (ICEM Film, 23 minutes), which did, had no award for its sensitive recording of small children's behaviour and its nicely unemphatic suggestions for handling parent/children conflicts.

There were other innovations this year, including the widening of the category range from nine to 16. Was it as a result of this one that there were notably more new faces to be seen than usual? And there was *The Times Newcomers Award*, which went

to *The Catch that Nobody Wants* (World Wide, 26 minutes), the International Cable Protection Committee's attempt to discourage fishermen from fishing up their cables.

If there is one unarguable fact about the industrial film area, it is that far too many enterprises that could use the medium obviously do not yet do so. If a few award encourages even a few of them, *The Times* will have served the industry and the newcomers well.

The 16 top films of the festival and the two special award winners will be shown in a marathon screening at the Minema Cinema, Knightsbridge, London, on June 13. Admission by application to BISPFA, telephone 01-353 2805.

Eynon Smart

Laskys in talks to set up link with Dutch

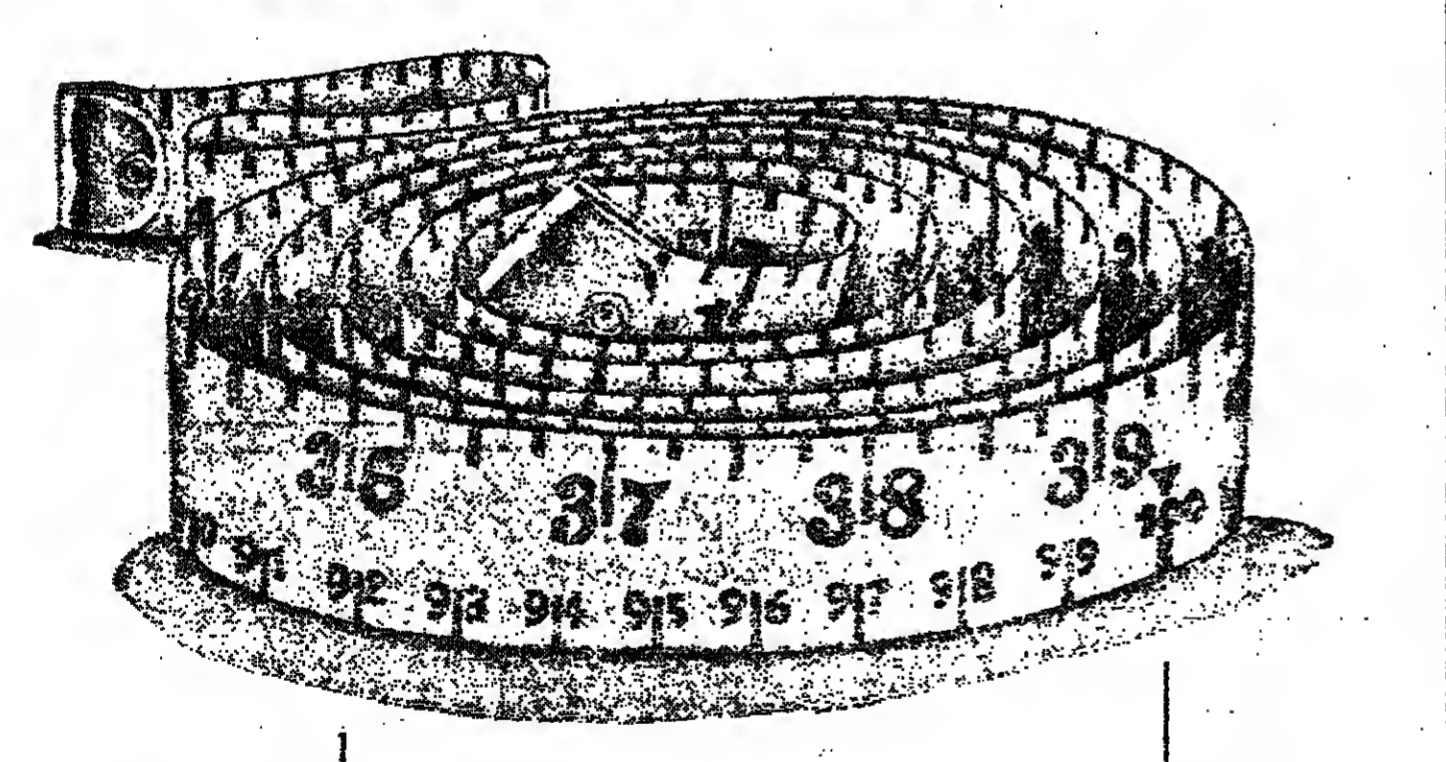
Negotiations are in progress between Laskys, the retail subsidiary of the Audiovisual equipment group and a potential partner in Holland. The link would give the group its first retail opening in the EEC. Mr Derek Smith, Lasky's joint managing director, foresees considerable expansion possibilities in the Dutch and German markets.

In Britain the group is embarking on an extensive High Street expansion programme. All the group's 24 retail stores are to trade under the Laskys name with an integrated design style. A further four stores are to be opened this year, and by the end of 1975 the group expects to have 50 stores in operation, mainly in town centre locations.

The programme follows the merger in 1972 of Laskys Radio with G. W. Smith (Radio), and last year the acquisition of five shops under the F. Cave name and two trading within the Adler company.

The group is also widening the variety of products stocked to include more mass market consumer items, including ocker calculators and transistor radios. The group reports that sales during the first three months of 1974 were 30 per cent up

Measuring and the metre.



A metre is about 3 feet 3 inches.

Virtually every country in the world is metric, or, like Britain, is changing to metric now. Under the metric system the metre is used to measure length. Pronounced 'meeter,' it is increasingly being used for measuring things like floor tiles, timber, furniture, bedding, dress patterns, sewing thread and adhesive tapes.

When you buy a metre you get a little more than if you buy a yard. You will be able to buy half-metres and quarter-metres just as you now buy half-yards and quarter-yards. There are 100 centimetres in a metre.

Where to get more information.
More information is available from your local Trading Standards Officer or Consumer Protection Officer (Inspector of Weights and Measures), from your Citizens' Advice Bureau or your local Women's Institute or Rural Community Council.

The Metrication Board
22 Kingsway, London WC2B 6LE

Britain in the Metric World.

Cedar Holdings Limited Bankers announces that, with effect from Tuesday, 28th May, 1974, its BASE RATE will be 12%.

Cedar Holdings Limited Bankers

Williams, Glyn & Co.

FINANCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

announce that from today 28th May 1974 their address is:-

67 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3DL

Telephone 01-626 5400 Telex 8811053

Business D

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Time for decisions by Mersey bondholders

As this week in the courts of the Mersey and Harbour Company...



Mr. George Brimyard, joint managing director of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company...

holders, particularly ones, may have no perception but to realize what they can do for themselves...

for the High Court amendment permitting partial redemptions. The position now is that the company can be obliged to pay stockholders up to £1m a year...

Even if its capital structure were reasonably conventional, the company would be one of the most highly geared, financially and operationally, in Britain...

one extreme, that could Mersey Docks going bust. At the other, more planar, it could be nationalized. It is admittedly difficult to put nationalization down as an argument for a stock. But then we are dealing with an unusual case...

As if the Bank of England has not had enough on its plate with the problems of our domestic financial institutions, it has now had to face up to a nascent crisis of confidence in the Euro-dollar market...

Given the importance of London as a Eurocurrency centre, it is not surprising that the Bank has added its voice to those urging a less hysterical approach. Its views, apparently, have been communicated to some of the Swiss banks...

could be earning dividends before any of the prior-ranking debentures had been redeemed. Given that the company's entire land and buildings are valued at only £23m...

New issues Staggering and the law

The conviction of two brothers at the Central Criminal Court last week on charges relating to staggering made history. Never before had a case of this kind come before a court...

It will certainly not stop staggering operations and, indeed, it may be the catalyst of the prosecution that the act of staggering was itself criminally dishonest. What was in question was the way the brothers, Mr. Henry Green and Mr. Alan Greenstein, had financed their staggering operations...

A rather intellectual introductory address yesterday from Mr. Max Wood—it was peppered with quotations drawn from such sources as the Earl of Rosebery, Marshall McLuhan, and Robert Kennedy—might have misled observers at the annual Co-operative Congress in Llandudno into believing that the assembled delegates are still dreaming of times past...

The court's ruling makes it plain that it is criminal for an investor to write a cheque which is not covered by funds in the bank, but assuming the cheque is covered, or that an overdraft has been arranged with the bank manager, there is still no objection to staggering itself...

In view of the court's decision one can only expect to see the banks clamping down hard on this practice, and, considering the potential scope for abuse that it created, it is certainly in the banks' best interest to do so. What the verdict ultimately means is that this is a potentially dangerous loophole in a field in which the law's position had not previously been made clear...

In the summer of 1859 Colonel Edwin Drake, a railroad contractor turned prospector, arrived in Titusville, Pennsylvania, to test the theory that water-drilling techniques could be used in the search for oil...

From this humble beginning grew a worldwide industry dominated by seven large multinational corporations controlling the bulk of the world's oil reserves. Their activities extended from exploration to transportation, refining and marketing of the multiplicity of products derived from crude oil...

As the energy market began to change from one of surplus to scarcity, the companies were obliged to surrender to the demands for higher prices from the governments of the oil-producing nations. The OPEC states were encouraged by the lack of negotiating strength of the companies and were equally surprised that the larger industrialized countries gave virtually no support to the oil companies...

The pressure was maintained and culminated in the quadrupling in oil prices over the period of last autumn in the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War. The restrictions on oil production have accelerated far-reaching changes in the balance of power, in the relationship between oil producers and their customers, and have emphasized the basic insecurity of the world's oil supply pattern...

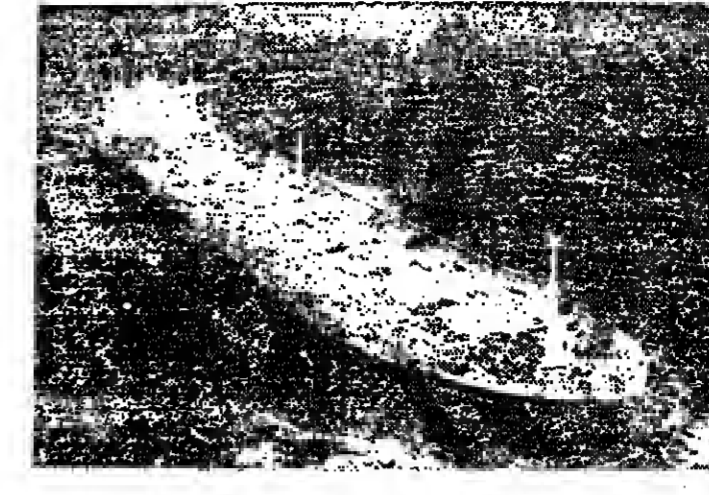
Without the restrictions on output by the Arab countries, it is unlikely that OPEC would have been able to introduce its second crippling price rise in December last year. While production has been restored to pre-October 1973 levels and an embargo on deliveries to the United States has been lifted, the producers will never again allow their joint output to rise to the point where crude oil is in surplus and prices are consequently eroded...

At the same time as they were forcing prices and disrupting the world's oil supply network, the oil-producing nations used their new-found negotiating strength to obtain a controlling interest in the activities of companies operating in their territories. The concept of participation is at the heart of the ambitions of members of OPEC, and while significant advances have been made in Kuwait and Qatar, the vital issue of the size of state involvement in American-owned oil concessions in Saudi Arabia remains to be settled...

While take-overs and friendly amalgamations quickly followed the 1968 plan, the pace of mergers has almost halted in the past few years. And, with still 240 industrial national leaders now want another big drive. Now 26 regional retail groupings (21 in England and Wales and five in Scotland) are proposed to bundle the next phase of the Co-op's dramatic fight back in the High Street. The revival of trade has now begun in the same or broader areas that while the Co-op slid towards the

Oil: has the world learned its lesson?

Peter Hill and Roger Vielvoye examine the forces which produced the energy crisis and pose some urgent questions for the future



stocks for the establishment of petrochemical industries. Iran is already well advanced in this field and Saudi Arabia has recently announced new joint refinery projects with Shell and Mobil that will provide a firm foothold in the petrochemical industry...

At a time when energy is in short supply the inefficient way in which society uses its available resources is at last beginning to attract the attention of governments. Huge savings can be achieved if the right policies are fixed by central government and serious attempts are made to educate consumers in the prudent use of resources...

Conservation of energy supplies should, however, not take place at the expense of improvements in the environment which were secured over the period 1963-73. Conservationists were among the first to emphasize that the world's energy and mineral resources were finite and were being used in the most inefficient and wasteful fashion...

It would be unfortunate if their other warnings on the danger of pollution were forgotten when the validity of their arguments on the use of resources has gained wide acceptance. In the next five years a planned development of all energy resources will expose the world to far greater consequences in the next decade...

This feature is based on Energy in Crisis by Peter Hill and Roger Vielvoye of The Times, published today by Robert Yearman Limited, price £4. Copies can be obtained direct from The Publications Department, Times Newspapers Limited, Printing House Square, London EC4A 4DE; price £4, including postage and packing.

Maurice Corina looks at a revived merger campaign as... The Co-op fights complacency

A rather intellectual introductory address yesterday from Mr. Max Wood—it was peppered with quotations drawn from such sources as the Earl of Rosebery, Marshall McLuhan, and Robert Kennedy—might have misled observers at the annual Co-operative Congress in Llandudno into believing that the assembled delegates are still dreaming of times past...

It is a slim 12-page, rather stark official submission entitled "Plan 2" for which the Co-operative Union's central executive will be asking an overwhelming vote of approval. Six years ago, after quite a battle, 567 retail co-ops round Britain agreed to a blueprint for merging into 53 regional societies on the theory that bigger was better...

brink of financial disaster, squabbling endlessly over what to do. The trouble is that the turning of the tide, with more funds washing through the tills, has prompted complacency in the headquarters of many local retail societies, still jealous of their independence and not feeling quite so severely the economic pressures that were so intense when trade was stagnating, or fast decreasing in volume terms...

Delegates will be bearing from Mr. Alfred Sugden, who is about to take over as CWS chief in spite of having been a 39 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in 1973 on top of an even more dramatic advance the year before. The CWS's own internal reorganization has been highly publicized and its help to retail societies in stimulating new trading methods (such as joint marketing, replacing stamps for dividend, standardized shopping, quality controls, a uniform trade symbol, and financial) has been rewarded in terms of wholesale trade and buying deals. Of course, Mr. Wilson, the

retiring CWS management supremo, is still far from done, and his successor, Mr. Sugden, has some formidable problems in pushing the movement into further reforms. The CWS regional warehousing plan has gone awry because still many retail societies want to exercise full buying freedom. Now an incentive dividend will be paid out to retail societies for using CWS warehouses, based on their scale of stock orders...

Even bigger is the headache of sorting out Scotland, where the once separate Scottish CWS collapsed last year when its banking department became over-extended on about £20m of sterling certificates of deposit, losing nearly £13m in spite of clearing bankers' help in the subsequent rescue operation. The central leadership's preoccupation with trade reforms has naturally left the Co-op's active members and the political wing somewhat bewildered in recent years. But they are beginning to reassert themselves, anxious that their movement does not fall totally into the hands of a self-perpetuating management bureaucracy, not always so keen on the social purposes.

political side has just pulled off something of a coup on which top managers are strangely silent. This is last week's joint agreement with the Labour Party for the Government to create a Co-operative Development Agency, deploying State funds in the modernization drive as well as financing an extension of Co-op ownership to industries and services outside existing interests, which are already wider than many people appreciate (ranging from banking and insurance to hotels and petrol retailing). The use of State funds for Co-op expansion is to be debated this week, but societies will be hard not to postpone action on the regional plan in the belief that if they wait State loans and grants will be made available to lubricate new reorganization. The Government has yet to indicate its intentions pending further Labour-Co-op talks...

Meanwhile, with limited capital resources, societies have made great progress in sprucing up existing shops and in opening new stores. There are now about 100 deep-freeze food centres, and many new "super-centres" coming off the drawing board. Price cuts, well promoted, reflect a new muscle power flowing from the national Co-op organization patiently developed in the past few years and, as yet, still not fully reflecting the potential which is seen in Regional Plan 2 becomes more than just a blueprint to be discarded in hotel wastebins when the delegate leave Llandudno and scatter across Britain back to their sponsoring societies.

Business Diary: Werner, the last summiteer • Women's rites

ple of Luxembourg, of as, made European his weekend. For the preliminary election suggests Werner, who has been time Minister of the lucky for several years, n through out of the election by a new and t-wing premier.

er's removal is historic- oriant because it means last of the 10 men who the declaration of the unit in Paris in October, has been removed from. The other nine have claims to a combination cal change and old age. Premier Barent Bisho- defeated last year in the election, being replaced eaving candidate, Joep vl. Belgium's leader, Eykens, retired to be l first by the socialist Leburton and then by ntor Andreessen. In nor Andreessen has given S'gnor Rnmur. In Ger- lly Brantot has been re- by Herr Schmidt. In k, Jens-Otto Krae has l and is now EEC Am- in Washington. Not s Norway changed its ministe, but has also not to join the EEC. own islands. Jack was unsuccessful in his to win a quick general in Ireland, as was Mr in Britain.



Castle, Summerskill and Carr: Mill was right

Leaders are every bit as committed to the idea of a united Europe as their predecessors. It will take them some time to develop the understanding which led to the idealistic commitments of the Paris communiqué. Of course, when one looks at the practical results of that meeting, that might not be such a bad thing.

Next month, the Prime Minister and Barbara Castle, mother of the Equal Pay Act, will address the National Conference of Labour Women at Swansea. The conference committee has already described the Tories' proposals as "inadequate". With an election in the offing, and with women making up over a half of the population, the Prime Minister may go beyond submitting the Tory record and give some hint as to the proposals that Shirley Summerskill, Under-Secretary at the Home Office, has promised to lay before the House "by the end of the year". The conferences come at a time when both parties are lurching towards some potentially expensive and knotty legislation that will (1) increase the cost of women's labour, and (2) throw upon employers, the responsibility for providing equal opportunities for women in recruitment, training and promotion.

The heat is likely to be kept even if the Tories are turned at the election. The Tories are unlikely to abjure their admittedly mild proposals, and whoever is in power, the Equal Pay Act, 1970, comes into full force on New Year's Day, 1976.

Unequal contest

The Equal Pay Act, which covers work done by women that is "the same or broadly similar" to that done by men, or where different rates of equal value by job evaluation, was passed in the last months of the previous Labour Government when Barbara Castle was Secretary of State for Employment. The Act, according to a 1969 estimate, would increase the labour costs of individual firms by anything up to 32 per cent, of industries by 2 per cent in engineering to 18 per cent in clothing, and add between £600m and £900m to the national wage bill.

The Act was attacked by Robert Carr, now shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer but then shadow Employment Secretary, as raising the price of women's labour without at the same time breaking down the barriers between "men's" and "women's" work. Nevertheless, it was the first time that a British Government had seriously addressed what The Times called "a great social evil" since James Stuart Mill had asked in his Principles of Political Economy "why the wages of women are generally lower, and much lower, than those of men". Now, over a century later, it does indeed seem as if the poli-

tical consensus has swung around to Mill's view that although so much smaller a number of women than men, support themselves by wages, the occupations which few and usage make accessible to men are more overcrowded.

While in opposition, Labour produced a Green Paper outlining legislation more stringent than that of the previous Conservative Government with powers of compulsion. In the United States, where a voluntary system proved ineffective, the balance has now swung towards what Sonia Pressman Fuentes, a senior official of the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, calls "legislation, backpay awards, injunctive relief, court actions, criminal penalties, fines, ensure, publicity, persuasion, picketing, education...".

Perhaps the clearest lesson of American experience is that once passed, equal opportunity laws, like Topsy, just grow as the body of case law develops and as pressure groups pinpoint the loopholes. Thus, British firms who have been in the shadow of the Equal Pay Act since 1970 may feel that there is no more to be said. But the Act is loosely based upon Convention 100 of the International Labour Office, guaranteeing "equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value". And in Geneva only this month, the ILG decided to re-examine its "23-year-old convention" to "determine whether the provisions are still adequate". See you in court?

Allied Polymer Group Ltd 1973 Results in Brief. Total Sales (excluding sales by associated company) £34,012,000. U.K. Sales £27,530,000. Direct Exports £6,482,000. Group Profit before loan stock interest and taxation £3,322,000. Group Profit after loan stock interest and taxation £1,478,000. Earnings per 25p share 8.4p. Capital Employed £12,360,000. Return on Capital Employed 24.3 per cent. In his Chairman's Statement, Mr. Peter Fatharhy highlights the following points: Sales increased by 25.9 per cent. Profit before loan stock interest and taxation increased by 31.8 per cent. Exports from the U.K., representing 19.1 per cent of total sales, increased by 47 per cent. Attention has been concentrated on products for markets with substantial demand potential. Production facilities and methods are constantly being improved. Impractical to forecast outcome of current year, but confident that the Group has the resources to finish 1974 as favourably as circumstances permit. Availability and cost of raw materials required will compare favourably with the materials upon which the operation and profits of other industries depend. Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, Allied Polymer Group Ltd., Beacon House, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey.

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL BANK LIMITED

Medium and long term Euro-Currency finance Underwriting of Euro-Bond and Euro-Equity Issues

Business appointments

Turner & Newall names managing directors in board changes

Mr S. Gibbs and Mr C. W. Newton have been appointed managing directors of Turner & Newall. Mr P. W. C. Griffith becomes deputy chairman...

of the company's new non-marine syndicate. Mr Alan Waters is to take over on June 1 as director of the Building Advisory Service...

The British Bank of the Middle East

in the United Arab Emirates We are pleased to announce the opening of our branch in AL AIN in the Emirate of ABU DHABI

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STANLEY GIBBONS International Limited Extract from the Chairman's Statement on the Report & Accounts, 1973

Mr R. C. Mallat, manager for services of a conservation, Standard Oil Company (Indiana), has been named to the executive committee of the new International Petroleum Industry Environment Conservation Association.

Redemption Notice City of Oslo (Norway)

5% Sinking Fund External Loan Bonds due June 15, 1975 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Fiscal Agency Agreement dated as of June 21, 1960...



Offshore- any shore, look for launching capital from Canada's oil bank.

Long before we got our sea legs in offshore financing, we'd established a solid footing as Canada's oil bank. More than half the wells in Canada are drilled by Royal Bank clients.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

Table with columns for bond numbers and redemption details for City of Oslo (Norway) 5% Sinking Fund External Loan Bonds.

AUDIOTRONIC HOLDINGS LTD. Extracts from the annual statement to shareholders by G. W. Smith, Chairman. 'These results represent a further increase in profits of 51 per cent over the previous year.'

FINANCIAL NEWS

Outlook not so bad Hawker Siddeley

The optimistic would see profits at Hawker Siddeley... Sir Arnold confirms that the bulk of the disturbance caused by the three-day week will fall in the early part of the year.

A. Goldberg rises 9.2 pc to new peak of £2.3m

Once again the A. Goldberg & Sons' group of department stores... has achieved record profits. These for 1973-74 have gone ahead from £2.06m to £2.31m on turnover up from £12.46m to £13.87m.

Streeters

This year cannot be a growth year for Streeters of Godalming... Measures to deal with the country's economic problems outlined in the previous Government's mini-budget in December, led to severe cut-backs in public expenditure.

Balfour Darwins

Further progress in the substantial recovery of Balfour Darwins in 1973 was prevented by lack of output, delayed rationalization, strikes and high interest charges.

Clouds over Currys

Both credit and cash sales of Currys, the retailers of electric appliances, television, etc. are running lower than last year.

Base Rate

Standard and Chartered Banking Group Limited announce that with effect from the close of business on 24th May, 1974, Base Rate of its constituent Banks, the Standard Bank Limited and the Chartered Bank, is as follows:

Western Brothers

Fresh from achieving record profits of £68,000, up from £47,000 a year ago, Western Brothers, the Croydon-based public service company, has started the current year well.

Union Minière

Drilling at the Thiery copper mine in Ontario has established mineralization to the depth of 1,500 ft.

Briefly

BANK OF NSW Net interim profit up 30 per cent on revenue increased by 28 per cent.

More share prices

The following will be added to The London and Regional Share Price List tomorrow and will be published daily in Business News:

The Times Share Indices

Table with columns for Index, % Chg, and % Chg 1 Week. Includes indices for All-Share, Industrial, and Gold Mining.

Weekly list of fixed interest stocks

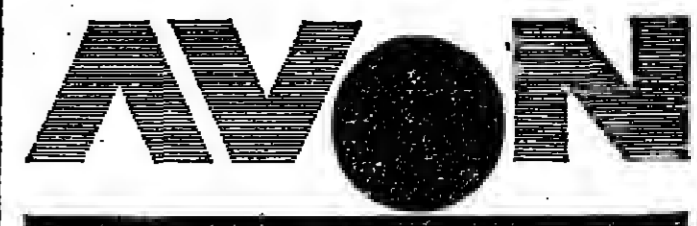
Table listing various fixed interest stocks with columns for Name, Price, and % Yield.

CONVERTIBLES

Table listing convertible stocks with columns for Name, Price, and % Yield.

AVON RUBBER COMPANY LIMITED

Table with columns for Name, Price, and % Yield, listing various shares.



Half Year Statement

Table showing Profit of Avon Rubber Company Limited and its subsidiary and associated companies, unaudited, for the half year 1973/74 and compared with profit for the half year 1972/73.

The energy crisis hit hard into the first half profits by an estimated £500,000. The cost would have been much higher but for the excellent co-operation of all our employees and a good level of sales.

We have maintained contact with the Board of RFD but they have delayed announcing the result of the Accountants' investigation into their affairs so that it can embrace the corrections needed to the published results for the financial year ended 31st March 1973.

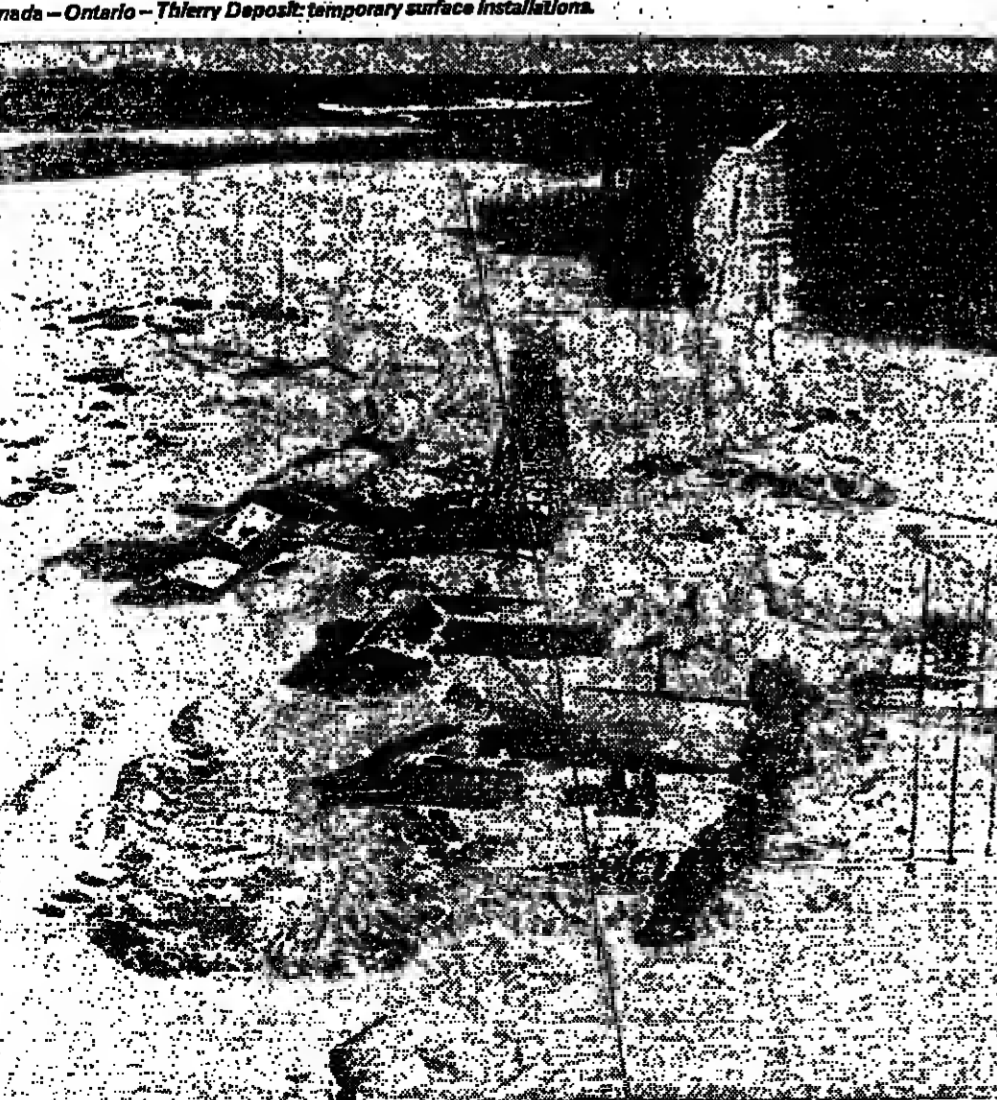
AVON RUBBER COMPANY LIMITED

UNION MINIERE

67th Annual General Meeting of Shareholders, 24th May, 1974

Annual General Meeting of shareholders of Union Minière S.A. was held in Brussels on the 24th May, 1974.

- Increased profit and dividend. Active preparation for the mining of the Thiery deposit (Canada). Carrying on of the geological explorations in Canada and Australia.



Extracts from the Directors' Report and the Statement by M. Paul-Emile Corbleu, Chairman of the Board. Summary of Results: Net Profit for the Financial Year 1973: B.F. 1,431.7 million (against B.F. 960.6 million in 1972).

loss due to the writing off of our assets in Zaire and of the subsequent exemption from taxation on our taxable income since 1967. This will affect in a very marked manner the net profit of the company... followed by the establishment in Rio de Janeiro, on May 10, 1974, of a new Union Minière subsidiary with a capital of 10 million cruzeiros.

* Copies of the 1973 Annual Report (in English, French, Dutch, Spanish or Portuguese) can be obtained on request from: UNION MINIERE S.A.

Bank Base Rates

Table of bank base rates including Barclays Bank, FNC, Nat Westminister, etc.



FINANCIAL NEWS

Freight report

Steady recovery in tanker rates

Persian Gulf tanker rates came out of the doldrums last week, as owners forced a steady, if not spectacular, freight recovery. For the first time in some two months rates were clear of the dangerous, operational break-even level.

Results: Thursday came the full-year figures of Metal Box, Marley and Chatterhouse - the leading inter-...

Metal Box and BP this week

British Petroleum's first-quarter results take the limelight in this week's company news. Also on...

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

Table of Eurobond prices, yields, and premiums for various countries and maturities.

Commodities

Problems facing the analysts

The expected rise is probably based on a technical reaction after the recent prolonged downward movement, while the long-term fall is in line with most traders' thoughts. However, the dealer gives two exceptions to this general rule of thumb. These are coffee and sugar both of which he feels are in for a strong upward movement. He is not shy in putting a price on the movements, estimating August sugar at between £280 and £300 a long ton (222 buyer on Friday) and September coffee up to £800 a ton (£594.50 buyer).

On the metal scene, market sentiment seems to have a more complete change bearing in mind the fact that a factory has been coming with alarming ease. These include a changed of the physical demand and for the remainder of an increasingly stringent financing situation. Many dealers now the slow-down in the growth the major economies for this year will result in a greater demand for physical metals for which London Metal Exchange can certainly the decision Japan to sell surplus copper, hardly conducive to a hot state of affairs. Heavy fall in oil prices over recent months is another major indicator. However, today LME house stocks are expected to be lower and this will probably keep prices fairly stable for a while.

By John Woods

Buyers of minor metals turn cautious: The apparent change in sentiment on the London Metal Exchange has led to a more cautious approach by buyers in some instances. Buyers in some instances became more cautious and activity has quietened and prices have sortened, Reuters reports.

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NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

Continental Oil International Finance Corporation

9 1/2% Guaranteed Debentures Due 1985 Issued under Indenture dated as of July 1, 1970

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the provisions of the above-mentioned Indenture, \$2,500,000 principal amount of the above described Debentures have been selected for redemption on July 1, 1974, through operation of the Sinking Fund, at the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to said date, as follows:

DEBENTURES OF \$1,000 EACH

Large table listing debenture serial numbers and amounts for redemption.

On July 1, 1974, the Debentures designated above will become due and payable in such coin or currency of the United States of America as at the time of payment shall be legal tender for the payment of public and private debts. Said Debentures will be paid, upon presentation and surrender thereof with all coupons pertaining thereto maturing after the redemption date, at the option of the holder, either (a) at the corporate trust office of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 15 Broad Street, New York, New York 10003, or (b) at the main office of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York in Brussels, Frankfurt or Bank Mees & Hope N.V. in Amsterdam or Banque Morgan Vonwiller S.p.A. in Milan or in Rome, or in Lyons, or in Luxembourg, or in Geneva, or in Paris, or in London, or in any other office of the issuer. Payment at the option referred to in (b) above will be made by check collected in the usual manner. Payment at the option referred to in (a) above will be made by check collected in a dollar account, or by a transfer to a dollar account maintained by the payee, with a New York City bank.

CONTINENTAL OIL INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION

Dated: May 28, 1974

NOTICE

Table listing debenture serial numbers and amounts for redemption.

Unit Trust Prices-change on the week

Large table showing unit trust prices and changes over the week for various funds.

London and Regional Market Prices

Capitalization & week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, May 24 Dealings End, June 7 Contango Day, June 10 Settlement Day, June 13 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days (Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

mp means ball and roller bearings

LINE connoisseurs cognac

Main table with columns for Stock, Price, Week's Chg, Div Yld, and various market categories including Commercial and Industrial, Monwealth and Foreign, L. Authorities, Sign Stocks, AR Stocks, S and Discounts, and Financial Trusts.

Series and Distillers

Mines

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or reference.

pointments Vacant on page 6

THE OBSERVER requires a Commercial Appointments SALES EXECUTIVE

The Observer's particular strength in the commercial appointments advertising market... The position is based in London.

Susan Morse, Classified Advertisement Manager, THE OBSERVER LTD. 160 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4DA.

C&A Modes-Interior Design

We have more than 60 retail branches, a constant need to maintain an up-to-date fashionable image, many new branches planned and older ones due for modernisation.

Design Team Leader Ideally with a record of leadership and original work in a fashion-conscious milieu. Designer Specific experience in designing and fitting out shops or leisure centres required.

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TORONTO, CANADA adding importer of ladies sports wear from the Far requires experienced person. M. I. GREISMAN & SON (CANADA) LTD. 56 Gerrard Street East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

ACCOUNTANCY (Unrestricted Advertisement) PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT (Capital Finance and Investment) Up to £3,978

Responsibilities include day-to-day management of the Council's Loan Debt, and investment, research and technical advice on capital financing plus administration of Council insurances.

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS PETERHOUSE, CAMBRIDGE

SENIOR BURSAR

The Master and Fellows invite applications for the post of SENIOR BURSAR. The Senior Bursar would be elected an Official Fellow of the College.

Applications, accompanied by details of previous career and by the names of two referees, should be addressed to The Master, Peterhouse, Cambridge, and marked "Bursarship".

ACCOUNTANCY PUBLIC NOTICES

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER £7,000 P.A. ACA, must have fully qualified background, to fully cover all aspects of the accountancy function.

ACCOUNTANCY PLACEMENTS qualified and experienced accountants for various appointments. Tel: 01-499 1391.

BETTER ACCOUNTANCY For A.C.C. Auditors, articles, bookkeepers, qualified accountants, etc. Tel: 01-499 1391.

MANAGEMENT AND EXECUTIVE JOIN THE COMPANY WHICH REWARDS ABILITY

At Hamlyn Life, 270 and background are immaterial. Initiative, self-motivation, the ability to get on with people are the criteria.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS University of Bradford LECTURESHIP IN GEOGRAPHY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates with a first class honours degree in Geography.

PUBLIC NOTICES CHURCH COMMISSIONERS PASTORAL MEASURE 1968

Notice is hereby given by the Church Commissioners that a DRAFT PASTORAL MEASURE 1968 (Scheme) is being prepared.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS PASTORAL MEASURE 1968 Notice is hereby given by the Church Commissioners that a DRAFT PASTORAL MEASURE 1968 (Scheme) is being prepared.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY Notice is hereby given that the 93RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Church of England Children's Society will be held on Tuesday, 18th June 1974.

BUSINESS NOTICES

ESTABLISHED MANUFACTURING & DISTRIBUTING CAPABILITY AWAITING NEW PRODUCTS

If you have a new product or an existing product requiring improved marketing, we could possibly help you with our nationwide sales force.

WELLGLOW LTD. Despatch Complaints are looked for new products and ideas to produce exclusively. Please write to: 41 Conary Court, Grove End Rd. NW8 9LP.

INTERNATIONAL COMPANY offers capital and flow of business in return for machinery, etc. in UK for sale or lease.

NEW PHARMACEUTICAL Laboratory - Prestige Location - Modern Equipment - Fully Staffed - Fully Equipped. Tel: 01-234 2222.

We are seeking standard furniture to equip a chain of shops selling specialised products. Replies to Box No 0004 D, The Times

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS SERVICE NATIONAL DE ALICANTARTE S.A. SAN JOSE DE LOS RIOS. SAN JOSE DE LOS RIOS. WATER SUPPLY PROJECT.

COMPANY MEETING NOTICES COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE DE PARIS (S.A.) NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948

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LEGAL NOTICES DOMESTIC SITUATIONS

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE IN AND UNDER THE SEAL OF THE MASTER OF GREYHOUND SECURITIES LIMITED and in the Matter of the Companies Act, 1948

NOTICE is hereby given that a PETITION for the WINDING UP of the above-named company has been presented to the High Court of Justice by the Liquidator of the said company.

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NANNY £1,300 p.a. and colour TV in your own room - St. John's Wood way. If you like children, we've got four of them. The youngest is 2, the eldest 7. My wife, who I believe is about 27, needs help - and means help, not a complete takeover. She won't let you do everything because she's too interested in the children, and she'd feel guilty, anyway.

WANTED: COUPLE FOR U.S.A. Chairman of large industrial corporation is seeking couple for his home. Accommodation is excellent, with completely furnished flat available. Excellent salary and working conditions. Must have references and top experience.

MARRIED COUPLE SOUGHT Accommodation and salary for wife, intended to follow own career. Widow with Queen Anne country house between Bath and Exeter will give furnished 6 roomed house to couple aged between 45 and 50 (children or pet not essential). Husband is a professional and really some light housework. An excellent salary and working conditions. Must have references and top experience.

MOTHER'S HELP needed by busy family with 3 children. Excellent home in North and South London. Excellent salary and working conditions. Must have references and top experience.

SEE THE WORLD AS A CHAUFFEUR Chauffeur required for permanent position, must have UK and abroad licence. Living in Richmond, London. Salary with overseas allowance. Apply with references to own passport. Tel: 01-499 1391.

EDUCATED, RELIABLE, friendly lady to care for children in modern home in North London. Salary with overseas allowance. Apply with references to own passport. Tel: 01-499 1391.

PAIR OF REAL POCOCKVILLE AT £12,000. Located in North London. Excellent home in North London. Salary with overseas allowance. Apply with references to own passport. Tel: 01-499 1391.

FRANCHISE "Tasty" Fashion design urgently seeks permanent position. Living in Richmond, London. Salary with overseas allowance. Apply with references to own passport. Tel: 01-499 1391.

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WOMEN'S APPOINTMENTS SECRETARIAL... £2,500 PLUS... FOR SECRETARY/P.A.

WOMEN'S APPOINTMENTS SECRETARIAL... Busy Partner in City Firm of COMPANY SOLICITORS

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ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY... ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER SHADOW... L.w.b. without division, garnet with black

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